FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 JULY 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes struck military targets 23 July in Sanandaj, Iran, according to an Armed Forces communique cited by Voice of the Masses radio. In other activity the same day, Iraqi aircraft hit a large maritime target and an Iranian oil refinery, the communique announced. For its part, Iran charged that the Sanandaj raid, which killed 23 civilians, was directed against civilian targets, according to a Joint Staff communique cited by IRNA. Retaliating for the attack, Iranian artillery shelled economic and industrial installations in Al-Harithah, Iraq, Tehran radio reported.

Israel

The talks with Morocco's King Hassan II exceeded Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' fondest expectations, Jerusalem radio's English service reported, adding that Peres will discuss the visit with U.S. Vice President George Bush, who arrives in Israel next week.

Lebanon

A Hizballah spokesman met with Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The spokesman said Hizballah is prepared to do everything possible to guarantee the success of the security plan in the suburbs, the radio continued. Meanwhile, 1,500 Syrian paratroopers dressed in Lebanese Army uniforms were said to have arrived, the Voice of Lebanon later reported, adding that Kan'an was intensifying his contacts with Lebanese Army officers aimed at forming the security force which will enter the southern suburb.

Elsewhere, former President Camille Sham'un expressed the belief that King Hassan II is brave and sincere in his efforts for peace, according to Voice of Lebanon. Sham'un added that the Hassan-Peres meeting does not justify a boycott of Morocco, according to the radio.

Syria

The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon alleged that Syrian authorities have held a Muslim Brotherhood group responsible for a 9 July blast in Damascus that killed at least seven people. A number of Syrian officers were arrested on charges of collaborating with the Brotherhood, the radio continued.

Saudi Arabia-Yemen

PDRY Chairman Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas concluded his talks with King Fahd, SPA announced. Al-'Attas said the greater part of the two leaders' talks was devoted to developments in the Arab world, in particular the Palestinian cause and the Iran-Iraq war, the agency added.

OPEC

The Kuwaiti oil minister foresees an "extremely difficult" OPEC session, scheduled to start 28 July in Geneva, KUNA reported. The minister blamed the problem on the rejection of production quotas by some member-countries, the agency continued.

Tunisia

President Habib Bourguiba dismissed former Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali from the Destourian Socialist Party Political Bureau, and dismissed Mzali's wife, the former family and women's advancement minister, from the party Central Committee, Tunis radio announced.

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Foreign Ministry Protests French Aid for Mujahidin

LD241800 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the French Embassy in Kabul was summoned at noon today to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a protest note was handed to him by the official in charge of the relevant section about the recent French Government's assistance to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries.

This note refers to the recent assistance of the French Government, including a donation of FR 200 million, to the so-called international and nongovernmental organizations carrying out activities against the DRA, and the allocation of $300,000 to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries, and points to the provocative statement by Claude Malhuret, French secretary of state to the prime minister in charge of human rights, and to the recent undeniable facts which clearly show that official French authorities, who are openly trampling on human rights, contrary to the humanitarian ethic and to accepted international norms, and continuing their interference in the internal affairs of the DRA, spare no efforts to intensify the undeclared war.

In expressing the profound disapproval of the DRA Government and people for these actions by the French Government, a strong protest has been lodged and a warning given about the unpleasant consequences of such actions on relations between the two countries.

Najibullah Comments on Domestic Issues, Iranian Ties

LD250628 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0509 GMt 25 Jul 86

[Text] Kabul, July 24, *Bakhtar* — Najibullah, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, visited Herat City, west of the country, today. He performed prayers with a great number of Herati people in the Congregational Mosque of Herat. He also visited different parts of Herat textile factory and talked with the workers about their problems and proposals.

Addressing the working people of Herat in a grand gathering, general secretary of the PDPA CC said that the ensurance of peace and security constitutes the most important task of the people of Afghanistan. To achieve this end, the party and state of the DRA declared national reconciliation. Najibullah called upon the elders of Herat Province to exert their utmost cooperation for the realisation of such a national reconciliation.

The working people of Afghanistan want to [words indistinct] friendly relations with the people of the world specially with those of Iran. There existed friendly, fraternal and good-neighborly relations between the people of Afghanistan [words indistinct] in the course of history. Presently, the party and state of the DRA are willing that the people of Afghanistan should have friendly relations [words indistinct] all the people of the world, particularly with the brotherly people of Iran.

Based on the peaceful policy and mutual cooperation and without resorting to force, the DRA wants to solve all its problems with its neighbouring countries. The pursuance of such a peaceful policy is in the interest of the people of Afghanistan and Iran, general secretary of the PDPA CC emphasized. We are confident that the peoples of the both countries do not want war but it is imperialism and reaction who are intending to impose war on the people of the both countries.

He also gifted a check of one hundred thousand afghanis to assist the clergymen of Herat.

BAKHTAR Views Implications of U.S.-Pakistani Talks

LD250652 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] Kabul, July 24, *Bakhtar* — A political observer of *Bakhtar* writes: Talks were held between Ronald Reagan, the U.S. President, and Mohammed Khan Junejo, Pakistani prime minister, on [words indistinct] bilateral extensive military cooperation. The main agenda of the talks were Islamabad's persistent requests for the extension of economic and military assistance and cooperation for the modernisation of the Armed Forces of Pakistan.

White House agreed to Islamabad's proposals provided Washington's new aid to Islamabad should be tied with the consolidation of the American military presence in Pakistan and the ever-greater activity of Islamabad in the imperialist undeclared war against the DRA. As far as the results of the talks show, Islamabad has completely accepted these conditions.

The U.S. Department of State in its statement published in the press points out that Washington, in its giving economic and military aid to Pakistan, treat it as a country which should give to the United States the right of establishing military bases in its territory.

It can be clearly understood from Ronald Reagan's pronouncements that as long as the territory of Pakistan remains as a springboard of the imperialist undeclared war against the DRA, Islamabad can depend on U.S. support.

Islamabad regime does not conceal its happiness about this deal. It plans to spend the new credits which would amount to over four billion dollars for the development of the military and the reequipping of the Armed Forces. Islamabad regime intends to purchase from the United States the most modern offensive weapons such as Harpoon, Stinger rockets and war and electronic intelligentsia's equipments. Pakistan completes its Air Forces with F-16 war weapons and speeds up the setting up of its nuclear weapons. These facts and figures make the bellicose policy of Islamabad regime clear which causes the concern of the countries of the region. The results of the talks in Washington testify to the fact that Pakistan and the United States are not interested in the reduction of tension in Asia.

Islamabad and Washington new military deal which has taken place against the will of Pakistani people certainly ever further converts the territory of Pakistan to the bellicose strategic springboard of Washington. This would bring about dangerous consequences for Pakistan the responsibility of which would rest with Pakistani rulers.

Gandhi, Canadian Emissary Discuss Commonwealth

BK231608 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] The Canadian prime minister has sent a special envoy, Mr Bernard Wood, for talks with Indian leaders on the coming mini-summit of Commonwealth leaders. Mr Wood met the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the external affairs minister in New Delhi today. He also had meetings with the two ministers of state for external affairs.

Shiv Shankar Explains Position on Commonwealth Meet

BK250905 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr P. Shiv Shankar, asserted in the Lok Sabha today that India will continue its efforts at the forthcoming mini Commonwelth summit in London toward the sternest action against South Africa.

Replying to supplementaries, he said India will persuade Britain to impose economic sanctions against the racist regime. If persuasion is not effective, Mr Shiv Shankar added, we will see what emerges out of the discussion. The strategy India would adopt in the coming summit will depend upon the responses of other participating countries.

Replying to another question, the minister said that 63 Indian prisoners were repatriated from Pakistan in February this year. He said: Regarding the release of the rest of the prisoners, the response from Pakistan Government is awaited.

Gandhi Interviewed on Dissident Sikhs, Pakistan

BK250400 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] The prime minister has expressed the hope that both Punjab and Haryana will abide by the verdict of the Eradi commission in solving the issue of sharing the river waters. In an interview with a Hindi daily, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the Center is not averse to holding negotiations with dissident Akali leaders provided they discontinue their support to the terrorists.

Referring to Pakistan's role in the situation in Punjab, Mr Gandhi said he had personally taken up the issue at different levels.

Parliament Debates Steps To Curb Communal Violence

BK231620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] The Lok Sabha was told today that the government has the political will and it will exercise it to put down communal violence. The minister of state, Mr P. Chidambaram, who also looks after internal security, pointed out that this was demonstrated during the recent disturbances in Ahmadabad when the situation was brought under control within 24 hours. He was intervening in the resumed special discussion on the subject.

Mr Chidambaram made it clear tha the district magistrates and superintendents of police will be held responsible for communal disturbances in their jurisdictions though they are under the control of the state governments.

Referring to the special courts to deal with cases relating to communal violence, Mr Chidambaram said the experience so far has not been a happy one. Only 12 states and 2 union territories have set up special courts. In other states regular courts are dealing with these cases. He said we will make a beginning at Ahmadabad where those responsible for disturbances will be punished severely.

The minister said 88 districts have been identified as hypersensitive and 98 districts as sensitive to communal disturbances. Mr Chidambaram emphasized the need for state governments to strictly enforce central guidelines to deal with communal troubles. He also appealed to newspaper editors not to publish unbalanced and provocative reports. Condemning any kind of fundamentalism, Mr Chidambaram urged secular forces to assert themselves and isolate the communal elements which are only a few.

Participating in the discussion, the members urged the government to ban communal bodies which they alleged are primarily responsible for fomenting trouble in different parts of the country. They also wanted the government to punish severely the perpetrators of communal violence. A member suggested that necessary arrangements should be made to keep unaffected cities free from the backlash. Sensitive areas should be identified and effective arrangements should be made to keep them trouble free. There were demands for reorientation of the police force to make it more effective. A ruling party member appealed to the house to adopt a constructive approach in solving the communal problem. Another member said that the people's movement should be built up to ensure communal harmony. Members also demanded action against smugglers and bootleggers who are behind the communal trouble.

An opposition member suggested that voluntary organizations, intellectuals, and the media people should be involved in maintaining communal harmony. A ban on all communal organizations with political motives was also demanded. Another opposition member suggested imposition of punitive fine on communities for damages during disturbances. There was also a suggestion for setting up a parliamentary committee on permanent basis to monitor the situation.

Home Minister on Gurkhas, Pakistan

BK240905 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] The Center will not like to transgress into the jurisdiction of the West Bengal government in dealing with the law and order situation as it is a state subject. The prime minister said this in the Rajya Sabha today when a question was asked on the Gurkha homeland movement in Darjeeling area.

Answering the question, the home minister, Mr Buta Singh, said that the Center is in touch with the state government with whos-

cooperation it will not spare any movement which believes in bringing about political changes through violence. He told the House that the West Bengal government had asked for the assistance of eight companies of paramilitary forces which has been provided to them. In reply to a supplementary, he said the government is aware of reports that exservicemen are being harassed and coerced. The state government has been asked to take proper steps to prevent this.

In a written reply, the home minister also informed the House that some extremists who have been apprehended in Punjab recently have disclosed that they were kept in various Pakistani jails and guest houses where they received training in the use of arms. Mr Buta Singh said that they were also briefed to indulge in terrorist activities on return to India. The minsiter expressed the hope that the Government of Pakistan will desist from such action which adversely affects our efforts to develop friendly relations with that country.

He also disclosed that anti-terrorist operations in border areas of Punjab have brought to light some cases in which terrorists had a mix-up with drugs trafficking. The minister of state, P. Chidambaram, told the House that the government is considering the setting up of special courts to try such offences. He said the drive against narcotic offences, which is continued, seems to have yielded results.

Home Minister on Curbing Riots

BK241625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has warned that political, religious, and communal elements found guilty of engineering communal violence would be treated and punished as criminals. He said nobody would be allowed to get away with carnage on humanity. The minister was replying to the 3-day discussion on the communal situation in various parts of the country in the Lok Sabha today initiated by Mr Madhu Dandavate.

He said in future if a communal incident takes place, not only bad characters and those working against national integrity but all those behind them would also be holed up. Mr Buta Singh declared that the government will not allow religious fundamentalists to destroy the unity and integrity ofthe country. The government is determined to curb such organizations which are inculcating fanaticism in the midst of children at regular rallies where they are given lathis [batons] and told that they belong to a community of nationalists.

The home minister suggested that besides district authorities, elected representatives of people should also be made responsible to ensure that communal incidents do not take place in their constituencies. If the district authorities fail to preserve communal peace, an entry would be made in the confidential reports of the concerned officiers and that would be a permanent stigma in their career. Besides, any officer found covertly or overtly involved in the disturbances would certainly be punished severely.

Referring to the demand for a ban on religious processions, he said this will not be a practical proposition. However, there is need to regulate such processions. As for revision of textbooks, particularly those on history, he said the Education Ministry has completed the work in most of the states.

About the code of conduct for the press, it was suggested that it should be voluntary and uniform. Similarly, the minister said, there is a need for a code of conduct for political parties and this could be hammered out if all parties cooperated.

About the representation of minorities in central force, Mr Buta Singh pointed out that it is being done. Six peace-keeping battalions of the Central Reserve Police Force have been raised and it has been ensured that minorities are properly represented in them besides the scheduled castes and tribes. He said the state governments have been asked to resort to special courts if the ordinary courts are not able to measure up to occasion. The high court judge should be from an outside locality and not belonging to any of the communities involved.

AFP: 91 Pakistani Infiltrators Killed April-June

BK241605 Hong Kong AFP in English 1534 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] New Delhi, July 24 (AFP) — Indian border security forces shot and killed 91 Pakistani infiltrators and arrested 21 between April and June this year, Parliament was told on Thursday. Internal Security Minister Arun Kumar Nehru told the Upper House that 20 of the Pakistanis held were suspected to be smugglers, and one a spy.

More than 4,400 Pakistani infiltrators were held on the Indo-Pakistan border in the troubled northern state of Punjab in the first four months of the year, Mr. Nehru said. Of these, [number indistinct] were handed over to the Punjab police for questioning and the rest sent back to Pakistan, he said.

Indian troops also caught more than 7,000 Bangladeshis illegally crossing India's eastern border in the first four months of the year, the minister added.

13 Killed in Punjab; Curfew Imposed in Mukhtsar

BK250755 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] Thirteen passengers of a Delhi-bound bus were shot dead by the terrorists in Mukhtsar in Punjab early this morning. The terrorists, who were traveling in the same bus, stopped it near a railway crossing some 10 km from Mukhtsar, pulled out the victims, and shot them from close range. Reports reaching Chandigarh say seven of the passengers were injured, some of them seriously. The bus, which started from Mukhtsar, was later hijacked by the terrorists. Indefinite curfew has been clamped in Mukhtsar after the killing. A massive manhunt has been launched for the terrorists.

In Chandigarh, the Punjab cabinet, which went into an emergency session, described the killings as an outrage against humanity. It called upon the people of the state to unite against

antisocial elements and their sympathisizers who were working in conjunction with a hostile foreign power to disturb the peace and wreck the unity and integrity of the nation. It appealed to the people to remain calm in the face of grave provocation and not to walk into the trap laid by these elements, who want to throw the state into a fratricidal bloodshed.

The governor, Mr Siddhartha Shankar Ray, and the chief minister, Mr Barnala, have canceled their engagements and rushed to Mukhtsar. The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has gone to the site of the incident for an on-the-spot study. This information was given in the Lok Sabha by the speaker, Mr Balram Jakhar, when Mr Madhu Dandavate, Janata, raised the matter. Mr Jakhar described the incident as condemnable and said the home minister is likely to make a statement in the house on it this afternoon.

Later, the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, told the house that the Punjab situation will be taken up for discussion on Monday [28 July].

Curfew, Shoot-on-Sight Orders in Karnataka State

BK250322 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] In Karnataka, a curfew was imposed last night in the silk town of Romanagaram and police have issued orders to shoot at sight any person indulging in violence. This followed a fresh outbreak of violence in the town. Two persons were killed when a mob set fire to huts at Udasanhalli village 3 km from Ramnagaram last night. The deputy inspector general of police told our Bangalore correspondent that additional police contingents have been rushed to the spot.

Meanwhile, the state cooperation minister, Mr Jalappa, visited the spot. A team of Congress-I leaders led by the KPCP-I [Karnataka Pradesh Congress Party-Indira] president and MP, Mr R.K. Fernandez, also visited the site. The chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, has appealed to the people to maintain harmony.

Commentator Assesses Outcome of PRC Border Talks

BK241409 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 24 Jul 86

[PTI's Sunil Roy commentary: "Seventh Round of Indo-China Border Talks — An Appraisal"]

[Text] As was expected, the seventh round of India-China talks on the border issue produced no tangible result. The 3-day talks that ended on Wednesday had begun under the shadow of a fresh Chinese intrusion several kilometers deep inside the Indian territory in Arunachal Pradesh. A few weeks before the seventh round of talks was to open in Beijing, Chinese border personnel in uniform intruded into the Kameng Division of the easternmost Indian state which has a long and open border with Tibet.

As a result of this recent unprovoked Chinese intrusion beyond the McMahon Line, the chances of any real progress at the last round of border talks were considerably reduced. What was most disquieting was that China rejected the India protest when the fact of the intrusion was brought to its notice a few days before the last round of border talks. There were speculations that China preferred to intrude into Indian territory to stall the progress of the talks. While India had maintained that 40 Chinese had crossed the border, now it is known that about 100 of them were identified inside the Indian territory. This disclosure was made by the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Mr G. Apang, who had flown over the area where the intrusion had taken place in a helicopter. Apparently, this was not without the knowledge of the Chinese. The Chinese leaders were fully aware that the intrusion would not be taken lightly in India.

Soon after the arrival of the Indian delegation led by the foreign secretary, Mr A. P. Venkateswaran, in Beijing, the Chinese foreign minister, Mr Wu Xueqian, acknowledged that the atmosphere for the new round of talks was not as good as it was before. The atmosphere was not what China had hoped for, Mr Wu said. He, however, did not tell the Indian delegation as to why China preferred to cross the McMahon Line constituting the international boundary in the eastern sector.

At the last round of talks, not only was the issue of the recent intrusion into Arunchal Pradesh not solved, but there was not much progress on the boundary question either. Mr Venkateswaran had assured the Chinese leaders of India's desire to have friendship with China and the need to maintain peace so that the world's two most populous nations could realize the full potential of their relations. He reiterated that India and China would find a reasonable and fair solution to the boundary issue through negotiations. The officials of both the countries had a brief review of the Jammu and Kashmir sector where the Chinese are in an illegal occupation of the 38,000 square km of Indian territory. China has further complicated the issue by constructing a metalled road linking Pakistan.

Even in the midst of heavy preoccupation with the border issue, negotiators had some time left to discuss cultural exchange and cooperation in the area of science and technology. The Chinese have proposed studies in India's electronics, animal husbandry, jute processing, and tropical diseases, besides textile industry, man-made fibers, and transport policies. India has also proposed to hold exhibitions of traditional musical instruments and contemporary art and cultural troupes in China.

Despite the modest gains in the fields of science and technology and culture, the intractable issue of border settlement remains most crucial in the relations of both the countries. It is evident that the Chinese are trying to twist India's arms in the eastern sector in the fond hope of extracting substantial concessions in the west. The latest intrusion into the Indian territory was one among half a dozen taking place every year. It is reasonably apprehended that the latest incident will not be the last. It was speculated that the border problem could be solved at the political level. But with the present attitude of the Chinese and with the increasing irritants such a prospect can be easily considered remote. In India, public opinion influences the government's decision to a greater extent. But with China, the same does not apply. The last round of talks does not indicate any easy solution to the border issue. Both countries will have to live with it for years to come.

Prime Minister Returns from U.S., European Visits

BK250634 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Excerpt] When Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo arrived at Islamabad airport this morning after his visits to Turkey, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States and France, he was accorded an extremely dignified welcome.

He was greeted by Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan, National Assembly Speaker Hamid Nasir Chatha, Punjab Governor Makhdum Sajjad Hussain Qureshi and the chiefs of the Armed Forces. The president and the prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir were also present at the airport to welcome Prime Minister Junejo. [passage omitted on details of welcoming ceremony]

Parliamentary Study Group Departs for Jakarta 24 July

BK240623 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] A 6-member parliamentary delegation left Karachi for Jakarta early this morning on a 15-day study tour of Indonesia and Singapore. The delegation is led by Senator Khalid Amir Abdullah Khan Ropadi.

Karachi Details Recent Mujahidin Activities

BK250352 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] The new leader of Afghanistan, Najibullah, who came to power with the help of the Soviet Union, paid a brief visit to the northern border of Herat Province yesterday.

Najibullah visited the border for 6 hours after reports that the brutal bombing of Herat had led to an exodus of large numbers of people from Herat to neighboring Iran.

Another report says fierce fighting is going on at various places in Lowgar Province.

According to yet another report, at least 100 Soviet Kabul forces were either killed or wounded in clashes with mujahidin in Herat Province during the last 2 weeks.

The report says that mujahidin seized large amounts of arms and ammunition in these clashes.

Meanwhile, a group of 200 Afghan children has been sent to the Soviet Union. Thus the number of children sent to Soviet Union since 1980 has gone up to 6,500. The aim of this program is to turn the children into supporters of the Soviet Union.

SRI LANKA

Reportage on Visit of Bangladesh President

Arrives for SARC Talks

BK241111 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad arrived today for talks with President J.R. Jayewardene aimed at promoting ties among the member-states of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation [SARC]. Mr Ershad was given a 21-gun salute and a guard of honor by the Sri Lankan Navy at a ceremonial reception outside the president's official residence. He will hold talks with Mr Jayewardene this evening centered on SARC, which means Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

The Bangladesh president and his party will fly tomorrow by helicopter to Kandy in the central zone where they will visit a Buddhist temple and plant a commemorative tree at botanical garden.

Mr Ershad, who arrived from the Maldives, is due to leave Colombo for Pakistan on Saturday [26 July].

Jayewardene, Ershad Banquet Speeches

BK250356 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] The Sri Lankan president has expressed the hope that peace and normalcy will return to his country soon. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Bangladesh president, Lieutenant General Ershad, Mr Jayewardene said that most of the friendly neighboring countries are assisting to find a political solution to the ethnic issue in the island. General Ershad expressed the hope that the people of the island will be able to resolve their differences through their earnest efforts. Both the leaders pledged to strengthen and promote the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

Further Reportage on Tamil Peace Talks

TULF Leader Interviewed

BK241435 Hong Kong AFP in English 1250 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] Colombo, July 24 (AFP) — The main Tamil political party wrapped up ten days of talks with the Sri Lankan Government here Thursday with a meeting with the main opposition Sri Lankan Freedom Party (SLFP), Tamil sources said.

Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) General Secretary Appapillai Amirthalingam told *Agence France-Presse* in an interview shortly before leaving Colombo that his delegation "will not say we are satisfied with the talks, but we feel we can go on."

A joint communique issued by the Sri Lankan Government Thursday said the TULF delegation would return to Colombo in mid-August to continue discussions with the government on finding a peaceful solution to the ethnic conflict.

Before leaving for Madras, southern India, late Thursday the TULF delegation held a one-hour meeting with the SLFP, Tamil sources said.

TULF leaders held a series of meetings beginning July 13 with President Junius Jayewardene to discuss proposals for granting Tamils limited autonomy. Militant members of Sri Lanka's 2.5-million Tamil minority have been waging an often-bloody campaign for a separate state on the north and east of the island.

Mr. Amirthalingam said his party's reaction to the talks was "more positive" than for discussions held in Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan in August. "I can also say that the reaction from the government side was also more positive," he added. Mr. Amirthalingam said that the TULF Political Bureau will meet in Madras soon to review the talks.

TULF will also brief the extremist Tamil groups and Indian officials on the talks and on issues that will be coming up later during the discussions, he said. The TULF leader said his party expected to go to New Delhi for further talks with Indian officials who have been actively involved in helping to formulate the autonomy proposals now being discussed.

Asked to sum up the discussions in Colombo Mr. Amirthalingam said "they were useful." "The two sides have prepared building blocks but neither the plans nor the foundation for the building has been finalised," he added.

The joint communique issued by the Sri Lankan government said the talks with the TULF delegation were frank and detailed. It also said the discussions were useful although no final decisions were reached on several matters.

Political Parties Endorse Proposals

BK241215 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] The political parties conference endorsed the reports of the five committees appointed to study aspects of the proposals to end the ethnic conflict yesterday. The conference at its plenary session presided over by President Jayewardene recommended that the proposals be implemented by his government once discussions with the TULF and other representatives of the Tamil people were concluded.

The resolution to endorse the proposals was moved by the leader of the UNP delegation, Dr M.C.M. Kaleel and seconded by the LSSP [Lanka Sama Samaja Party] leader, Dr Colvin R. De Silva.

The conference has appealed to all Eelamist organizations to put forward their proposals to find a political soltuion to the ethnic crisis within the framework of an undivided Sri Lanka. The conference called for the formulation of definite proposals regarding finances that will ensure the viability of the provincial

council system. It also requested the president to summon a plenary to consider further developments in the light of these resolutions.

The All Ceylon Tamil Congress and the DWC [Democratic Workers Congress] recorded their reservations on the resolutions. The leader of the Tamil Congress, Kumar Ponnambalam, said that APC [All Party Conference] cannot achieve its objectives without negotiating with the Tamil militant groups. The LSSP leader, Dr Colvin R. de Silva, appealed to the government to take all possible measures to implement a cease-fire or cessation of hostilities through negotiations. The leader of the SLMP [Sri Lanka Mahajana Party], Vijaya Kumaratunge, said that his party was willing to assist the government in arranging a cease-fire with the Tamil militant groups. The political parties conference will resume its deliberations at a later date.

Tamil 'Tigers' Blamed for 24 Jul Bus Bombing

BK250454 Hong Kong AFP in English 0422 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] Colombo, July 25 (AFP) — Tamil separatists opposed to current peace talks with the government were responsible for a parcel bomb attack on a bus in northern Sri Lanka, government sources said Friday.

Officials of the Joint Operation Command (JOC), the anti-guerrilla military headquarters here Friday reduced the toll in Thursday's blast to 12 dead and 28 injured. A government statement Thursday had said that 31 people were killed and 33 injured when a parcel bomb exploded aboard a government-owned bus travelling south from Vavuniya in the north to Anuradhapura. Military sources said that the initial miscount was because of the large number of mutilated bodies found at the scene which made even the identification of sex very difficult. The bus was virtually reduced to scrap, the sources said.

Government sources said Friday that they believed the bomb had been planted by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the main Tamil militant separatist group. The LTTE have also been blamed for detonating a landmine Tuesday under a bus in the north, killing 31 people and wounding about 25.

The attack were believed to be in reaction to current peace talks between Tamil representatives and the government to solve the country's ethnic crisis by giving greater autonomy to Tamil regions, government sources said. A section of Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamil minority have been waging a bloody campaign for greater autonomy in the north and east, complaining of discrimination by the Sinhala majority.

Finance Minister Interviewed on Economic Problems

PM231945 Paris LE MONDE in French 28 Jun 86 p 4

[Interview with Sri Lankan Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel by Paul Fabra and Francoise Crouigneau in Paris — date not given]

[Excerpts] It is unusual to hear a finance minister, whether he is from a Third World country or not, frankly admit: "The sudden upsurge in inflation is entirely due to the recent increase in public spending." And, when we asked him to explain this in greater detail, Ronnie de Mel, who has been Sri Lanka's finance minister for 9 years, modified his statement: "Or rather it is due to the method by which it has been financed: the monetization of part of the public debt by the issuing institute."

This is unusual for two reasons. The first is that such frankness is not customary among politicians; the second is that very few finance ministers in the world are capable of establishing the relationship between cause and effect so clearly. It is true that Mr de Mel, who is still a young man, has achieved remarkable results. In 1980 prices in sri lanka increased by 35 percent; in 1984 the increase was still 16.3 percent; and in 1985 inflation had virtually disappeared with an increase of just 1.3 percent. "In fact we reduced inflation to zero percent," he minister said. "But it has increased again since then to around 6 percent and we hope to limit it to 9 percent over 1986 as a whole." This is additional proof, if such proof were needed, that inflation is a domestic phenomenon.

However, like other countries, Sri Lanka is "benefiting" from the drop in the price of oil and in other products it must import in large quantities. But some figures given by the minister may give a better idea of the tensions and the risks run: "The interest rate for depositors was 16 percent last year; it has been reduced to 12 percent" (despite the increase in inflation). [passage omitted]

"The tragedy is the increase in military spending," Mr de Mel told us, "which has now reached 10 billion rupees, three times more than 2 years ago. In 1977 the defense budget only accounted for 1 to 2 percent of the budget. The proportion has increased to 15 percent this year. Less than 2 years ago, the total number of men under arms in the police and the Armed Forces was not more than 15,000. This figure has increased to 25,000."

By comparison, spending on the famous but fairly ineffective food aid program seems small: It costs around 2.5 billion rupees, or the equivalent of a little less than $100 million. The criticisms leveled at this program are justified, Mr de Mel explained: "Half of the population benefits from it, in other words around 7.5 million people. We would like to reduce this figure to 5 million, the aim being to simultaneously increase the allocations and reserve the program for those who are really in need." Thanks to the distribution of special allocations, the beneficiaries can buy rice, lentils, dried fish, and oil, in other words the basic necessities.

From 1978 to 1985 the countries experienced an average growth rate of 5.8 percent. Before the uprising the rate was 6 percent. "We have succeeded in keeping it at 5 percent despite the troubles," Mr de Mel explained, "and we think we can achieve the same percentage in 1986. For the 1986-90 period, we are planning an average increase of 4.4 percent. Unfortunately, this will not be enough to provide work for the whole population." The proportion of people unemployed has fallen for several years. According to the official figures it has been reduced from 35 percent to around 13 percent.

What is the aim of the government's action? In the economic and financial sphere Mr de Mel explained: "While we are continuing our effort at liberalization, especially by easing price controls,

which has already been greatly reduced, we intend to tackle bureaucracy and the proliferation of various ministerial agencies. At the same time we are continuing efforts to rationalize customs duties."

In the short term the main aims is, of course, the reduction of the budget deficit, demanded by the international financial bodies. Moreover, Mr de Mel has no illusions. Although he plans to reduce the budget deficit from 14 percent to 8 percent in 1986, he immediately explained: "Everything will depend on military spending." [passage omitted]

Mr de Mel had come to Paris to negotiate funds amounting to some $700 million granted to the consortium for aid to Sri Lanka, organized under the World Bank's auspices. It is long-term aid (between 30 and 50 years) and carries a very low interest rate (between 1 and 4 percent). The main donor countries are, in order, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, and the United States, whose contribution has been reduced this year (although it is accompanied by a particularly low interest rate). "The importance which Washington attaches to Sri Lanka in its strategy unfortunately bears no comparison to the importance the Americans attach to Israel and Egypt."

"The 30-percent drop in tea prices last year and the reduction in the number of tourists, from 450,000 to 300,000 — but we have never been Italy — explain the increase in our foreign deficit," the finance minister argued, before adding: "We are trying to diversify exports, particularly by encouraging foreign investment by the creation of free zones or by other means. Before the troubles some 450 investments programs were planned; this number has dropped, but we are still receiving around 10 proposals every month."

Khomeyni Receives Hajj Supervisors, Martyrs' Families

LD241422 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] Karrubi, the imam's representative and supervisor of Iranian Hajj pilgrims, accompanied by Emam-Jamarani, the imam's representative in the Hajj, Awqaf and Charity Affairs Organization and Reza'i, the supervisor of the Hajj organization, as well as several members of the Council of Estefta [council answering public queries on religious matters] were this morning received by Imam Khomeyni. Also this morning, the relatives of martyrs, POW's and those missing from the cities of Qom, Karaj and Beza-ye Fars, as well as some of the relatives of martyrs from the cities of Tehran and Mahallat, met the imam of the ummah at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran.

At this meeting, which was also attended by the members of the planning headquarters dealing with educational affairs of the children of martyrs and composed of officials in charge of the institutions and ministries which are required to cooperate in this matter under an order issued by the imam of the ummah, Minister of Education and Training Akrami was also present.

Karrubi, the deputy speaker of the Majlis, the imam's representative and supervisor of the Martyrs Foundation, first made a speech about the victories of the combatants and about the politico-religious Hajj ceremonies. He referred to the visit of the prime minister of the Zionist, usurping Al-Quds regime to Morocco. He said: Although such visits are a tragedy for Islam and the Islamic community, yet they expose the ugly face of mercenaries such Shah Hassan II and reveal their treacheries to Islamic nations.

During the meeting Karrubi also paid tribute to the selflessness and sacrifices of the relatives of martyrs and conveyed the imam's congratulations and condolences to them. At the end of the meeting, the imam of the ummah responded to the favorable sentiments expressed by the audience.

Velayati Cables De Cuellar on Attacks on Civilians

LD251047 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA — In a message to the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Thursday, Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali Akbar Velayati urged the international body to take urgent action to stop the Baghdad regime's inhuman attacks upon civilians in the Islamic Republic.

Pointing to the Iraqi regime's repeated violations of the U.N.-sponsored June 12, 1984 agreement to discontinue military attacks on civilians, Velayati cautioned that the Islamic Republic would no longer tolerate unilaterally, the human losses inflicted by the Baghdad rulers.

In his letter, the Iranian foreign minister said that the Iraqi regime has once again intensified its military attacks upon civilian areas in Iran in the recent weeks. As latest examples he referred to Iraqi military attacks on Iranian cities of Bostan, Piranshahr, Abadan, and Marivan, as well as the village of Sharifabad in southeast Tehran, which have taken place since June 10, 1986.

He also reminded the U.N. chief of Thursday morning's attack of Iraqi warplanes upon the Kurdish city of Sanandaj in Kordestan Province which he said had so far martyred and injured 60 civilians.

Reporters Invited to Sanandaj

LD241901 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — The War Information Headquarters (WIH) invited foreign reporters residing in Tehran to visit and inspect the destruction caused by the Iraqi bombardment of the western city of Sanandaj, Thursday.

The WIH also invited the U.N. expert delegation in Iran to visit the area and file report on the raid which claimed lives of 23 civilians and wounded score of others.

The announcement said that Iraqi warplanes targeted a slum area in heavily populated center of Sanandaj, massacring a number of Muslim Kurds.

Further Reaction to Peres, Hassan Talks in Morocco

Foreign Minister Condemns Visit

LD241516 Tehran IRNA in English 1502 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati condemned the visit of the Zionist regime's Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to Morocco and stressed that Muslim Moroccan people will not allow their treacherous ruler to continue such treasons, here Thursday.

Velayati, speaking to a group of ambassadors and charges d'affaires of Muslim countries to Iran, said that this event has placed a heavy responsibility on the shoulders of all Islamic nations and leaders in the region.

"This heavy and historical responsibility necessitates giving an appropriate and decisive response to such acts and to such dependent and subservient agents as King Hassan and those presumptous superpowers and usurping Zionists who should be made to realize that no treachery to the Islamic ideal will be left unanswered." [quotation marks as received]

In the view of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Velayati said, if this treacherous act is not responded to with a measure similar to the one taken against the regime ruling over Egypt in 1978, future perfidies should be anticipated by dependent mercenaries.

Praising the decisive step taken by Syria in severing diplomatic relations with the Moroccan regime, the Iranian foreign minister called on other Islamic and Arab countries to take similar measure. He also called on the Islamic Conference Organization "to remove King Hassan from the chairmanship of Al-Quds committee because of such a criminal act against the aspiration of Al-Quds."

Velayati urged the organization to consider a collective orchestrated and decisive measure against the Moroccan ruler to halt continuation of such treacherous trend against Muslim nations.

Islamic Guidance Minister's Statement

LD250906 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA — Minister of Ershad Eslami (Islamic Guidance) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami Thursday called on the information ministers of Islamic countries to condemn the treacherous move of the Moroccan regime in accepting the trip of the Zionist regime's Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to that country.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami said in his message that hosting the Zionist prime minister was a great insult to Muslims of the world especially the Moroccan people. He also expressed regret over the silence of many rulers of Muslim countries vis-a-vis this move.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami urged his counterparts to encourage their people to take part in the anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist demonstrations of world Muslims during the Hajj rituals.

Elsewhere in his message the Ershad minister reiterated that the liberation of occupied Palestine would be possible only through armed struggle as well as the mobilization of world Muslims.

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD251223 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] The religious-political Friday prayers ceremonies were held throughout the country today. Citizens of Tehran attended Tehran University and the surrounding streets to observe Friday prayers under the imamate of Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili today.

In his prayers sermons Tehran's acting Friday imam began by referring to the trip to Morocco by the prime minister of the regime occupying Jerusalem and his meeting with King Hassan. He condemned that meeting and said: This trip, apart from being tantamount to treason to Muslim aims which see Jerusalem as one of their prime goals, has also brought about some disgrace.

In reply to the Moroccan king -- who said: I have invited the prime minister of Israel in order to find out what he has to say -- the ayatollah said: There are very few people in the world or the Islamic countries who do not know what Israel has to say! The president of the State Supreme Court added: The world knows that the Palestine fiasco has only one cause, that is the existence of these very King Hassans, King Husayns, and such mercenaries. And as long as the manly youths and zealous people of the Arab countries have not dispatched these filthy germs to join Al-Sadat, the Palestine problem will not be solved. [as heard]

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili added: Instead of these traitors I wish there were a handful of young people like the Hizballah of Lebanon dominating Islamic and Arab countries, for if that had been the case, Israel would have been destroyed long ago! However, it is these traitors who are unfortunately ruling the roost in the Islamic countries.

Continuing his speech, the president of the State Supreme Court censured the reaction of certain rulers of the Arab countires to this disgraceful meeting and emphasized: If these tiny satans had faith in the anti-Israeli struggle and if they had not created difficulties for the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic would by now have solved the problem of Palestine. However, by provoking Saddam, they planned to bar our path to keep us engaged in our own problems; and, recently, by dumping free oil at the feet of the common enemy, they are planning to bring economic pressure to bear on Iran.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili added: Our military culture is an Islamic one and when one man follows an Islamic culture, like the prophet, he shall not be brought to his knees. And if they imagine that we could be defeated by having no oil, then their imagining is false, because for us the existence or nonexistence of oil is not a determining factor.

The president of the State Supreme Court then referred to the bombing by the Iraqi regime of our country's populated regions and the martyrdom of a number of the innocent people of Sanandaj. He gave a warning to international organizations and circles and said: If Saddam imagines that such crimes could inflict the least harm on the will of our combatants, he should know that such actions can only further infuriate Islam's troops on the warfronts and will make them even more steadfast in their path. Let the international organizations also know that the patience and forbearance of the Islamic Republic of Iran has limits and that they should put an end to the wicked deeds of the Iraqi Zionist regime before retaliation in kind is made!

Prime Minister Addresses IRGC Commanders on Oil Plot

LD241345 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] In connection with the plot aimed at reducing the price of oil in order to bring pressure to bear on the Islamic Republic of Iran in the war, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi declared: The government council has carried out necessary planning to confront this plot so that the war could be ended as soon as possible with a victory for Islam's combatants; and the government has placed its entire capabilities at the disposal of the war.

According to a Central News Unit report, Musavi, speaking at a meeting of military commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], also emphasized: In addition to strengthening the agricultural sector and securing basic commodities and satisfying the people's needs, the country's fundamental projects will also be continued. The government is also strongly supporting domestic production so that, through smashing this latest plot of world arrogance, the war will also end with a rapid victory.

In connection with government plans aimed as securing government revenues the prime minister added: According to plans, government revenues should not rely on oil and in the future we should rely only on ourselves and not on others.

Referring to the fact that the arrogant powers, particularly the United States, fully understand our economic structure and know wherein lie our points of weakness and strength, Prime Minister Musavi said: The pressure which we feel from the fall in oil prices in effect constitutes their hope in breaking us economically, thinking that we will change our political slogans and high aspirations and show some flexibility toward the United States. We know that parallel with the plot whereby Saudi Arabia has entered this game in order to bring pressure to bear on Iran, the green light has been given by the United States and Europe to establish close relations with us. Together with their propaganda they imagine that with the reduction in the price of oil our country will be driven to showing some flexibility in order to continue its work; and this is their analysis as they have never understood the nature of our revolution!

The prime minister added: When we return to an analysis of the latest plot once again, we come across such a method of thinking by the architects of this plot; and the person who is sitting in Saudi Arabia thinking that by plundering the capital of the Muslim people he has defeated the Islamic revolution is making a serious blunder and through such actions has placed himself at the mercy of being judged by his nation as to the reason why he was selling oil worth $28 a barrel for $10 or less; and the aim behind this action is securing his goals.

The prime minister further said: The aspirations of the Islamic Revolution are not for barter or compromise. We have no other path except victory and we must be victorious and in order to defeat this plot, we are continuing our struggle on a world level.

Continuing his speech the prime minister emphasized: Now that we have cleansed Mehran of the odium of the aggressors, thanks to the tremendous power and blessings of God Almighty and because the enemy is confused today, we should not allow him to reorganize himself and we should continue to resist while being confident that victory belongs to us.

Political-Economic Delegation Returns From PRC

LD251041 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA — An Iranian political-economic delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister for Executive Affairs Hamad Mirzadeh returned here from China Friday and was welcomed by the Chinese ambassador to Iran, Wang Benzuo and a number of Iranian officials from the Prime Ministry.

The delegation participated in the second meeting of the Joint Commission of Bilateral Economic and Commercial Cooperation between the two countries held in Beijing.

Speaking to reporters upon his return, Mirzadeh described the results of the trip as "very successful".

According to a letter of understanding signed in Beijing, the volume of mutual trade exchange is predicted to increase up to $400 million. Agreement was also reached on an additional $200 million for implementation of joint development and industrial projects, Mirzadeh said.

Mirzadeh said that numerous joint technical and commercial projects were also agreed upon. He said experts from the two countries would carry out necessary studies within three months in this connection. It was also decided that the Chinese party buy 1.5 million tons of oil from Iran beside the non-oil purchases, he said. Iran's non-oil exports to China include nuts, dates, pistachio, machinery, buses, mineral concentrates, as well as other industrial products. Mirzadeh also said that he had important meetings with Chinese leaders and submitted a message of President 'Ali Khamene'i for the Chinese president on expansion of mutual friendly relations between the two countries.

Paper Cited on Religious Oppression in Saudi Arabia

LD240848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 23 Jul 86

[Text] The Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners of the Arab Peninsula declared in a statement: While the world's Muslims are preparing themselves for the performance of their Hajj ceremonies and call for the establishment of divine justice in the world, the Saudi Government has placed under arrest a large number of the Muslim and oppressed inhabitants of the Arab Peninsula on the grounds of religious activities, and is subjecting them to the severest medieval forms of torture.

In another part of this statement which was published in the *Al-Mustaqbal* publication, it is written that among those recently arrested are several clergymen and seminary students and a large groups of engineers, workers, students and [words indistinct], some of whom have been transferred to mental hospitals as a result of savage tortures and loss of memory. This statement also says that at present, in the eastern regions of Arabia, a state of emergency has been declared, and in various places inspection posts have been established Up to now, a large number of people have been arrested by the security agents of the government.

Combat, Karbala' Troops Leave for Battlefronts

LD250954 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Excerpt] Two battalions of combat-specialist forces from Khorasan Province left Mashhad yesterday for the battlefronts of good against evil in order to join the Islamic combatants. Similarly, the 6th Karbala' convoy left Western Azarbayjan Province for the fronts yesterday. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

IRGC Shell Umm Qasr

LD241235 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the warriors of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] ground forces last night and this morning carried out a series of successful operations with execution of fire [as heard] and were able to bring the economic and port installations of Iraq's Umm Qasr under their

long-range fire and to inflict heavy losses on the enemy. The smoke resulting from setting Umm Qasr's installations on fire can still be seen in the operational theater.

Further on Umm Qasr Shelling

LD241907 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] In retaliation for the bombing of the residential areas of several of our country's cities by the aggressor aircraft of the Armed Forces of Iraq, the power station and other industrial and economic installations of Al-Harithah in Iraq, situated to the north of Al-Basrah, have been subjected to ongoing heavy artillery fire by the combatants of Islam since yesterday.

The combatants of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps ground forces last night and this morning, in a series of successful operations in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational sector, also targeted their long-range fire on the economic and seaport installations at Umm Qasr, Iraq, and inflicted some heavy damage on the Zionist enemy. The smoke rising from the blazing economic installations of Umm Qasr can still be seen in the operational sector.

Communique No 2,542

LD241927 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 24 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — An Iraqi power plant and other industrial installations of Al-Harithah, north of the southern port city of Al-Basrah sustained substantial damage when they were subjected to heavy artillery fire of the Islamic combatants at 00:30 hours local time Wednesday (21:00 G.M.T. Tuesday).

Announcing the above Thursday, the 2,542d Joint Staff Command communique added that Iraqi war planes bombarded two civilian areas of Sanandaj, the capital of the western Iranian Province of Kordestan, at 11:30 hours local time (08:00 G.M.T.) Thursday. The bombardment, said the communique, resulted in the martyrdom of 20 civilians and wounding of several others as well as destruction of over 70 houses and shops and damaging of 55 private cars. Meanwhile, latest reports reaching here said that three of the injured have died in hospital raising the number of martyred to 23.

In battle operations throughout the war fronts during Wednesday and Thursday, the communique said that an Iraqi patrol unit attempted to penetrate Iranian positions in the Chazzabeh operational region of the western fronts but was immediately forced back by the latter's fire.

Iraqi artillery and armoured units in the operation areas west of Jofeyr and Eynkhosh sustained some losses as they came under Iranian artillery barrages which silenced the enemy fire.

Iraqi forces in the southern theatre were subjected to heavy weapons fire of the Islamic defenders which destroyed two vehicles and several bunkers in addition to inflicting more casualties on the enemy, said the joint staff communique.

Further up, in the same theatre, Iran's Gendarmerie forces halted enemy fire and activities killing several Iraqi soldiers and destroying a command jeep, a munitions dump and some armament emplacements.

In the Mehran theatre and other central sectors of the battlefronts, all enemy operations were checked by Iranian artillery fire, while some Iraqi troops were killed and one ammunition depot and two bunkers were demolished.

Artillery duels raged heavier in the Mehran and Sumar theatres, while more Iraqis were killed or wounded in the Hajj 'Umran and Sardasht fronts of the northwestern sector where two enemy fuel tanks and several vehicles were smashed, added the communique.

Afghan Rebels Attack 'Communists' in Zabol Province

LD202231 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 20 Jul 86

[Text] The Muslim Afghan revolutionaries last Monday during an operation attacked a big military convoy of the occupying communists who were moving from Kabul to Zabol Province in southeast of Afghanistan killing 120 of them.

According to the Central News Bureau, the Muslim revolutionaries during these operations also managed to destroy two choppers, 14 tanks, and armored vehicles of the communist forces.

On the other hand, the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries over the past 3 weeks, by carrying out a series of sporadic operations in different parts of Parwan Province east of Afghanistan against the positions of the communists and the forces of the regime ruling over Afghanistan killing many, captured 15 communists occupiers and a large quantity of weaponry and ammunition as booty.

During these operations, 10 tanks, and vehicles of the communists were destroyed by the fire of the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 JULY 1986

King Hassan's Resignation From Arab League Chairmanship

Moroccan King Hassan II announced his resignation as chairman of the Arab League summit conference in a message to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, noting that he decided to relinquish the post following the "uproar" in some Arab capitals over his meeting with the Israeli prime minister. The message, which was issued in Ifrane 26 July and carried by MAP the following day, also linked the decision with the king's desire that "neither regarding the chairmanship nor the venue" will Morocco be an obstacle to the convening of the next Arab summit. Hassan urged Klibi to take over the chairmanship until "one of our brother Arab kings or presidents" is able to assume the position. Klibi had earlier criticized the Moroccan-Israeli talks in a statement reported by TAP, asserting that the meeting in Ifrane confirmed Israel's "aggressive intentions" and its desire to persuade the Arabs to accept a fait accompli on the Palestine issue. Klibi maintained that peace can only be achieved by Palestinian struggle backed by "Arab weight" and by firm international stances against Israel's "obduracy," adding that the first practical step in this regard is to speed up the convening of an Arab summit. In other Arab reaction to the Moroccan-Israeli talks, Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi refused to meet an envoy from King Hassan, stressing that "treason" cannot be a subject of consultation and dialogue, JANA reported. In West Beirut, Hizballah militants ransacked and burned the Moroccan Embassy 25 July, AFP noted.

Israel

Further Comment, Reportage on Ifrane Talks — At the 27 July Cabinet session, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres told the ministers that his meeting with Morocco's King Hassan was a beginning that will be continued, IDF radio reported. Peres also noted that Hassan stressed the need for recognition of Israel's right to exist in accepted and secure borders and that he did not raise the demand contained in the Fes program that Jerusalem be the capital of an independent Palestinian state. As for Israel's position during the talks, Jerusalem radio cited the disclosure by sources close to Peres that he submitted a 10-clause plan which contained an Israeli commitment not to annex the West Bank and Gaza Strip before or during peace negotiations and expressed Israel's willingness to negotiate with "authentic" Palestinian representatives. However, there was some Israeli-Moroccan "misunderstanding" over the meeting because the Moroccans had expected that Peres would announce a change in Israel's position, Jerusalem television reported, adding that the Moroccans will no longer hold meetings on such a level unless they offer firm substance. The Moroccan foreign minister confirmed Morocco's disappointment in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, noting that King Hassan "would have been happier" if Peres had arrived with "concrete proposals." Nevertheless, he said the "most positive result" of the talks was that Peres "understood" the fundamentals of the Fes plan, and another Moroccan official cited by the *Post* viewed the meeting as a "success," stressing the "warmth" between the two sides.

Relations With Egypt — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak may be planning to meet with Prime Minister Peres within the next 10 days, *The Jerusalem Post* reported 28 July, noting that talk of an Egyptian-Israeli summit was fuelled by the arrival of an Egyptian envoy bearing a message to Peres from Mubarak.

Internal Affairs — Following Yitzhaq Moda'i's recent resignation, the Cabinet approved the appointment of Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir as acting justice minister pending the rotation, Jerusalem radio reported.

Jordanian-Syrian Talks

King Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad discussed the current Arab situation, bilateral relations, and efforts to "heal the Arab rift" during their talks in Damascus over the weekend, Amman television reported. The two leaders held several meetings during which they reviewed "new developments" in the Arab arena and efforts to "clear the Arab atmosphere," the television added. Damascus radio noted that the talks dealt with the regional situation, Arab developments, and bilateral relations. In a related report from the Syrian capital, Radio Monte Carlo said it is believed the two leaders discussed Peres' visit to Morocco, Jordan's mediation between Syria and Iraq, and U.S. Vice President George Bush's Mideast tour. A 27 July editorial by Jordan's *Sawt al-Sha'b viewed Husayn's visit to Damascus as another* attempt by the Jordanian king to heal the "regrettable rift" between Syria and Iraq, asserting that the "entire Arab nation" is hoping for the success of Husayn's efforts in this regard. The Husayn-Al-Asad talks were accompanied by discussions between Syrian and Jordanian ministers on ways to promote trade exchange, according to Damascus radio, which added that the two sides also reviewed ways to develop joint companies and strengthen economic coordination and integration.

Lebanon

Car Bomb in East Beirut — A 28 July car bomb explosion in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, East Beirut, killed 32 people and injured over 100 others, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Meanwhile, the Beirut security situation remained volatile, after more than 30 casualties were incurred in artillery shelling of West Beirut 27 July, Beirut radio noted. As the shelling of West Beirut abated that night, gunmen in the southern suburb brought areas of East Beirut under artillery attack, according to the Voice of Lebanon, which earlier reported that an explosion in Tyre the same day occurred during an Amal Movement meeting there.

Security Plan Developments — Amal leader Nabih Birri and Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, discussed the expansion of the security plan to the southern suburb, scheduled for 30 July, according to Beirut radio, which noted that talks on fixing an exact date for its implementation are still continuing. The same radio, while noting that Hizballah leader Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah had reaffirmed his view that expansion of the security plan southward was unnecessary,

nevertheless cited Hizballah sources who said that no one will obstruct the plan's implementation. Meanwhile, West Beirut sources cited by Voice of Lebanon contended that Hizballah officials have rejected the plan's extension, informing Iran that the plan is aimed at eliminating Islamic fundamentalism in deference to the West. Regarding Syrian movements, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that Syrian intelligence officers arrived in Sidon and Al-Nabatiyah to monitor Palestinian movements.

U.S. Hostage Released — Father Lawrence Jenco expressed his thanks and gratitude to Syrian President al-Asad and Syrian forces in Lebanon for their efforts in pursuing his release from Lebanon, Damascus radio reported. Speaking to a U.S. senator, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' stressed that Syria will continue its efforts to seek the release of other hostages in Lebanon, the radio continued.

Rumor on Vanished Imam — Lebanese Shi'ite Imam Musa al-Sadr, who disappeared on a visit to Libya in 1978, is alive in a Libyan jail, according to a report by the Lebanese ambassador to Senegal, cited by AFP. The envoy's report has been submitted to the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, the agency continued.

Iran-Iraq War

Air Attacks — Iraqi warplanes raided industrial targets in the Iranian city of Arak 27 July, destroying a machinery factory and an aluminium factory, the Iraqi command announced in a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Iraqi planes also hit fuel reservoirs in Ahvaz and installations on Khark Island, the communique added. Confirming the raid on Arak, IRNA said a number of civilians were killed when Iraqi planes attacked residential and industrial areas in the outskirts of the city, which is in central Iran southwest of Qom. Iraqi aircraft also attacked Iranian economic targets 25 and 26 July, according to earlier communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses, which announced raids on railway installations near Dezful, on a power station farther north, and on Khark Island. For Iran's part, a military communique cited by IRNA stated that Iranian planes bombed Iraqi economic targets in the Al-Sulaymaniyah and Al-'Amarah areas 25 July. An Iraqi communique said the Iranian raids caused 22 civilian casualties. As for attacks on shipping, an Iraqi spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses announced that Iraqi planes hit another "large maritime target" off the Iranian coast early 28 July.

Warning to Gulf States — Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani warned Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and other Arab oil states that Iran will make them "pay" for financing Iraqi attacks on Iranian oil installations, Tehran radio reported 27 July. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who was speaking in an interview with *Pasdar-e Eslam*, also said Iran will reciprocate Iraqi attacks on economic targets, claiming that Iran has precise information about Iraq's "sensitive points" and can launch precise and destructive missile attacks against such targets.

Gulf Defenses — Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are coordinating in constructing a developed, advanced warning network for their air defenses, the Kuwaiti defense minister disclosed in a press interview cited by KUNA, stressing that such a network is necessary to protect navigation in the Gulf.

Iran

Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri told education officials in remarks reported by Tehran radio 25 July that "harsh actions" by "certain responsible officials" have been counterproductive and made people "pessimistic" toward Islam and the revolution. He also deplored excesses by Hezbollah militants, asserting that such methods are neither correct nor useful and should be prevented.

Libya

Message to King Fahd — The Libyan planning minister departed Jeddah after delivering a message from Col al-Qadhdhafi to King Fahd, according to SPA, which did not reveal the contents of the message.

Unity Call to Algeria — The union of Libya and Algeria into one Arab country, a development supported by history and reason, would constitute the first step in a comprehensive Arab unity, according to a commentary broadcast by Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio.

Sudan

Fighting was reported in the southern town of Juba, according to the clandestine SPLA radio, which added that aviation and transportation there has been cut off. However, Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi denied that the town and airport had been captured, while sources in Juba declared that life there was normal, SUNA reported. Juba airport will be opened in the next few days, after the rebel forces are ousted, the agency continued. Elsewhere, SPLA radio contended that government forces are shooting residents of Malakal in cold blood following the rapid deterioration of security there.

PDRY

In an interview with the UAE newspaper *Al-Ittihad*, former PDRY Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad affirmed that Syria is exerting "sincere efforts" in finding a political solution to the "current problem" in the PDRY, in helping Yemenis overcome the effects of the January 1986 change of power, and in achieving a national reconciliation. The former PDRY leader added that three rounds of talks in Sanaa between the rival Yemeni factions had reached no conclusions, and that YAR-PDRY talks in Libya were fruitless, the newspaper continued.

PRC Premier in Tunisia

PRC Premier Zhao Ziyang met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis 25 July, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported, adding that Zhao reaffirmed the PRC's unwavering support for the PLO and Palestinian rights. A XINHUA report on the meeting noted that the Chinese leader advised 'Arafat to pay greater attention to political struggle. Zhao also held talks with Tunisian leaders during his 4-day visit which he pronounced a "complete success," according to the agency.

DRA-Pakistan

The DRA foreign minister departed Kabul for Geneva, leading a delegation that will take part in talks between the DRA and Pakistan, scheduled to start 30 July, Kabul radio reported.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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AFP: Gorbachev Announces Partial Troop Withdrawal

BK280854 Hong Kong AFP in English 0851 GMT 28 Jul 86

[Text] Moscow, July 28 (AFP) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Monday announced withdrawal of six Soviet regiments from Afghanistan by the year-end, and discussions on withdrawal of a majority of Soviet troops from Mongolia. In a speech at Vladivostok, he also proposed space cooperation with China, with which he said Soviet relations had improved.

Security Forces Carry Out Successful Operations

LD272258 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 Jul 86

[Excerpts] A BIA correspondent reports that successful operations by the country's Armed Forces carried out in the vicinity of Qandahar Province resulted in a number of counterrevolutionary elements being crushed, and eight assorted Chinese and U.S. weapons with 200,000 assorted bullets being seized by the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

According to another report, as a result of successful operations in the vicinity of Maydan Shar, a number of counterrevolutionary elements who were disturbing the peaceful life of the inhabitants of those regions were crushed. An enemy ammunition and weapons depot was seized by the Armed Forces there.

Also, according to another report, as result of successful operations carried out in the vicinity of Wardak Province, a number of counterrevolutionary elements were crushed. Four DShK's including 100,000 shells, a mortar with 200 shells, 30 Zk-1's with 150,000 shells, and 50,000 shells for assorted weapons were seized by the Armed Forces.

Rebels 'Crushed' in Armed Forces' Operations

LD280645 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 28 Jul 86

[Text] Kabul, July 27, *Bakhtar* — As a result of the successful operations of the Armed Forces of the DRA in Qandahar and Wardak Provinces, a number of the counterrevolutionaries have been crushed. The operations have also resulted in the seizure of assorted weapons, an arms depot, light machine guns and mortars.

BAKHTAR Statement on Effects of Rebel Activity

LD280159 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1630 GMT 27 Jul 86

[*Bakhtar* statement]

[Excerpts] The documents and evidence which have come to light show that the savage counterrevolutionaries, in collaboration with their imperialist and reactionary masters headed by the United States and the militaristic state of Pakistan, have launched broad destructive activities against revolutionary Afghanistan and the scope of this undeclared war is widening daily.

Reaction and imperialism's undeclared war against revolutionary Afghanistan has inflicted enormous damage upon our country's economy and has brought countless difficulties to the toiling people of Afghanistan. As a result of the inhuman and destructive activities of the murderer counterrevolutionary bands, dozens of economic establishments, more than 2,700 schools, 130 health centers or hospitals, 14,000 km of telephone lines, and 50 percent of transmission lines and other public utilities were either destroyed or burned by the end of 1364 [began 21 March 1985]. The destructive deeds of the mercenary counterrevolutionary bands being sent to Afghanistan by imperialism have caused damage exceeding 40 billion afghanis.

The savage rebels and murderer plundering bands have cruelly martyred thousands of our country's innocent children and people with their destructive activities. They have brought bereavement to thousands of mothers, and stolen or burned all they had.

The imperialist countries, headed by the United States, have overtly and covertly given $2 billion to the counterrevolutionary bands to carry out sabotage and criminal deeds. They have also furnished deadly advanced weapons to these murderers and plunderers in recent years to engage in killing and plundering in our dear country, kill our innocent compatriots, and weaken our country's national economy.

Economic terrorism is one form of the destructive activities the counterrevolutionaries use against our people and country and includes the destruction of roads, bridges, schools, mosques, and state buildings; the plundering of public properties; and the killing of thousands of innocent people. All of this is being carried out on the order of imperialist and reactionary masters, headed by United States' imperialism and the militaristic state of Pakistan.

Imperialist countries and their Western allies have imposed economic and trade sanctions against the DRA and, contrary to all international standards, have unilaterally cut all loans and credits for projects.

The Pakistani authorities have created artificial and deliberate obstacles for the transit of imported goods through Pakistan to Afghanistan and have increased the transportation charges on goods imported by Afghanistan. They charge more money as demurrage and [words indistinct] on goods imported by our country which is contrary to the content of the trade and transit agreement between the DRA and Pakistan. Pakistan also has forced our national traders to become vagrants during the transport of their goods from Karachi to Peshqar.

By engaging in economic sabotage the militarist state of Pakistan is not only disturbing our country's economy but is struggling to use that sabotage to strengthen its bankrupt and crisis ridden economy. [passage omitted] The acts of terrorism and economic sabotage also are hidden behind the West and militarist Pakistan's groundless accusations. The acts have already been transformed into an instrument for exploiting the world's free people in order to weaken their economies. Imperialism and reaction are striving to recover their lost positions in these countries by resorting to these types of deeds. [passage omitted]

Despite the difficult conditions created as result of the wicked imperialist and reactionary war, the DRA party and state have, with the assistance of the friendly countries, especially the great Soviet Union, the Afghan people's historical friend, expended great sums of money to restore and rebuild economic and social establishments. Despite the consequences of the activities of the enemies of revolution, the level of production and the country's social and economic plans has improved in all spheres.

Speedy development can be seen in some important spheres of the peoples' life. The volume of gross agriculture product increased 4.9 percent during the past 5 years, while industrial goods production rose 28 percent in the same period. The volume of state and mixed sector production output improved 49 percent and power energy output increased 30 percent. The gains of our people would have been greater had there been no counterrevolutionary destruction.

Our free and toiling people have taken decisive steps toward implementing the DRA's first 5-year social-economic plan for building a new Afghan society for the prosperity of our country's toilers, and condemn the destructive activities of counterrevolutionary elements and their imperialist and reactionary masters, headed by United States imperialism and the militarist Pakistani state, who want to see our national economy paralyzed. They decisively declare their determination, with the assistance of their international friends, to struggle against all the counterrevolutionaries' destructive deeds and aggressions and will continue to build the progressive Afghan society.

Further Reportage on Najibullah's Speech in Herat
LD252128 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Speech by Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, in Herat on 25 July at a meeting of the "officers, soldiers and NCO's" of the 17th Division — recorded]

[Excerpts] Brave and heroic soldiers, NCO's and officers of the various units and companies of the DRA Army and the DRA Armed Forces: Please allow me, first of all, to convey to you, the brave, heroic and courageous soldier comrades, the warm and sincere greetings of the PDPA leadership and myself in a warm and combat revolutionary climate. [applause] [passage omitted]

This year all the country's combat operations have been offensive. The enemy is scattering as it is defeated. One more strong, brave step will drive the enemy into its final grave, its final destiny and its elimination. The heroic soldier or officer is the one who keeps the combat and patriotic spirit high. During an offensive against the enemy, retreat should be death, death and death, but when he advances he should say fight, fight and fight. Finally, the offensive should be carried out to the death, the complete elimination of the enemy. This is the definition of a heroic soldier and a brave and powerful officer.

We demand such a spirit from our soldiers and our officers that finally the day will come — and it is not far off — when all our enemies in the country and abroad bow down before you combatants, before your decisions, before your powerful iron will. Let one voice be raised from all everywhere that the heroic soldiers and heroic officers of Afghanistan are proud and free with high ambition and are worthy of admiration. Let even our enemies bow down before us. [applause]

We have carried out successful operations in Khowst, Zhawar, Konar, Nangarhar, Qandahar and in Herat this year. You soldiers carried it out in Herat; you heroes, you officers carried it out.

Statistics of the enemy losses and the losses of weapons and equipment, which have reached us, cause their U.S., Israeli, German and British masters to bemoan the fact that they are facing a defeat at the strong and iron hands of Afghanistan's heroic sons. Honor be on you heros! [passage omitted]

When the issues of technical vehicles, the level of combat call-up and combat education and training are settled, you will be an example all over the country as a heroic army, the heroic Armed Forces. If you do this, your children will become educated; your children will not live any more in ignorance; your children will not cry tears of sorrow; their lips will be blossoming always with a smile. If you do this, our mothers will not be weak any more, crying in fear; our mothers will be tranquil and prosperous. If you do this, your sisters will live in honor and with respect. If you do this, your wives will be proud of you. If you do this, your fathers will give you their blessing, and the future children of the country will be proud of your names.

We want you to succeed because of the great name of the heroic soldier of Afghan.

Foreign Minister Leads Delegation to Geneva Talks
LD251601 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs, left today for Geneva at the head of a delegation that will take part in talks between the DRA and Pakistan that are to begin on 30 July.

Further Reportage on Unrest in New Delhi, Punjab

Sikhs Clash in Golden Temple

BK280534 Hong Kong AFP in English 0511 GMT 28 Jul 86

[Text] Amritsar, India, July 28 (AFP) — At least five people were wounded in clashes between Sikh groups inside the Golden Temple here Monday, triggering a fresh security alert around the temple complex, a police officer said. "We are unsure who fought whom, but there was an ugly incident," city Police Chief H. S. Khalon told *Agence France-Presse*.

Sikh sources said that members of the task force created by the Temple Committee To Protect Sikh Shrines clashed with the militants.

"We do not know what triggered the fight, but swords were used by both the groups," a Sikh eyewitnesses said of the clash in Sikhdom's holiest shrine.

Officials said that one of the five people wounded was in critical condition. Mr Khalon identified him as a member of the militant United Akali Dal, one of the several Sikh groups campaigning for secession of the northern State of the Punjab.

The temple has been the scene of several clashes between moderates and militants pressing for control of the shrine.

Meanwhile, *Press Trust of India* (PTI) news agency said that three more people died in Sikh-related violence on Sunday across the Punjab. The victims included one suspected Sikh extremist, PTI said.

Security Tightened in 2 Districts

BK260357 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jul 86

[Text] In Punjab, security arrangements in Faridkot and Ferozepur districts have been further strengthened. The chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, told the All India Radio's Chandigarh correspondent this morning that more police and paramilitary forces are being rushed to the two districts. He said the state may have to requisition more paramilitary forces from the Center to check terrorist violence.

Mr Barnala said the massive state-wide search for the terrorists who killed 14 bus passengers near Mukhtsar yesterday is continuing. The police are working on some definite clues and are confident of nabbing the culprits, he said. The state government has announced an ex gratia payment of 20,000 rupees each to the next of kin of those killed and 1,000 rupees to the injured.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh; the state governor, Mr Sidhartha Shankar Ray; and Mr Barnala addressed a meeting of citizens at Mukhtsar last evening. They assured the citizens of all efforts to ensure their safety of life and property. They urged the people to maintain peace and communal harmony and not to get provoked by the acts of antisocial and antinational elements.

The president of the dissident Akali Dal, Mr Prakash Singh Badal, has expressed shock at the Mukhtsar killings and said it is highly condemnable.

Gandhi Comments; Delhi Curfew

BK260854 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Jul 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has directed the security forces to take the strongest measure to prevent any untoward incident in Delhi and other places following yesterday's killing of bus passengers by terrorists in Punjab.

The Center is keeping a close watch on the situation and the home minister, the cabinet secretary and the home secretary are keeping the prime minister constantly briefed. The state chief ministers have been asked to exercise maximum vigilance in dealing with any situation.

A bundh [strike] has been observed in Punjab and Chandigarh to protest against the killings. Shops and businesses are also closed in many towns of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

In Amritsar, a 24-hour curfew is in force as a precautionary measure. Security arrangements all over the state and in Chandigarh have been tightened and intensive patrolling is on. No untoward incident has been reported. Police and paramilitary forces carried out raids in some parts of the city last night in an intensified antiterrorist drive. About 150 people have been rounded up. The state chief minister, Mr Barnala, said more security forces may have to be called from the Center to check the terrorist violence.

In Delhi, prohibitory orders have been imposed following a few incidents of arson and brickbatting. Indefinite curfew has been clamped in areas under Tilak Nagar and Moti Nagar police stations. Police said the Army is holding a flag march in the Tilak Nagar area.

Home Ministry Press Release

BK261644 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 86

[Text] The Union Home Ministry has made it clear that lawlessness of any kind will not be tolerated and firm steps will be taken to control it. In a press release it said the people of Delhi have always been peace-loving and cooperative. They understand the intention of the terrorists and will fully cooperate in maintaining peace and harmony in the union territory.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, had a round of the curfew-bound areas in the capital. He was accompanied by the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat; the lieutenant governor, Mr H.L. Kapoor, and the chief executive councillor, Mr Jag Pravesh Chandra. They have appealed to the people of Delhi to maintain complete harmony and peace.

The lieutenant governor of Delhi ordered a flag march of the Army on the directions of the home minister. The Punjab chief

minister, Mr S.S. Barnala, has also been requested under the directions of the prime minister to arrange for Army march on the border areas of Punjab.

The home minister spoke to Mr Barnala and asked him to take immediate steps to track down the terrorists involved in Mukhtsar killings. Mr Buta Singh returned from Mukhtsar last night and apprised the prime minister of the situation.

The press release said the Home Ministry has taken an extremely serious view of ghastly killing of innocent people of both the communities. The object of the terrorists, who were responsible for these killings, is to create panic in Punjab and condition of chaos in other parts of the country. The Home Ministry is determined to frustrate this object with the cooperation of the people.

Leaders Call For Peace

BK261706 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 86

[Text] An all-party meeting called by the lieutenant governor of Delhi has appealed to the people of the capital to maintain communal harmony and peace. The meeting held in the Raj Nivas was attended by prominent citizens who condemned the dastardly killings in Punjab yesterday. They said that the terrorists who perpetrate such crimes must be brought to book. They appealed to the citizens of Delhi to make all efforts to meet the challenge posed by the forces of destabilization.

The Bharatiya Janata Party leader, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, has strongly condemned the killings and arson and violence in parts of Delhi. In a statement, he appealed to the people of the capital to maintain peace and communal harmony against all provocations. He said there is no place for private retaliation in a civilized society. Those who are indulging in violence should realize that by doing so they are playing straight into the hands of the enemy.

The CPI in a statement has also appealed to all the patriotic and secular forces of all communities in Punjab and other parts of the country to safeguard communal amity and defeat the plan to destibilize the country. It said the government must carry out antiterrorist operations with greater determination.

The Janata Party president, Mr Chandra Shekhar, said in a statement that violence and bloodshed cannot solve any problem. He appealed to the people to work for peace and amity in Punjab and other parts of the country. Several other political parties, religious organizations and leading Sikh organizations have also condemned the killings in Punjab and incidents of violence in areas of the capital.

The Congress-I vice president, Mr Arjun Singh, has appealed to the people to maintain communal harmony and peace. In a statement in New Delhi today, he said this alone can help defeat the conspiracy of the antinational forces to divide and disrupt the unity and integrity of the country.

Three Akali members of parliament — Mr Balwant Singh Ramoowalia, Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Arora, and Mr Trilochan Singh Toor — today visited the areas affected by violence in Delhi. They urged the authorities to take more effective steps to restore confidence of the people. The Akali MP's appealed to the people to remain peaceful and maintain harmony at all cost.

Meanwhile, the bundh [strike] observed in Punjab and Chandigarh to protest against the killing of bus passengers at Mukhtsar yesterday has passed off peacefully. Shops and businesses were also closed in many towns of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. Reports from various towns and cities in Bhatinda, Patiala, Ludhiana, Jullundur and other districts say that the bundh was complete. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere. Complete hartal [strike] was observed in Sangrur District also.

557 Arrested; Curfew Relaxed

BK270905 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Jul 86

[Text] In Delhi, no incident of violence has been reported since this morning, and the situation is well under control. According to police, in all 557 people have been rounded up during the last two days, and many of them were arrested as a preventive measure. Police patrolling as well as searches are also continuing in various parts of the capital. According to police sources, curfew is being relaxed in Hauz Qazi, Jama Masjid, Chandni Mahal, Balli Maran, and Farash Khana areas from 160 to 1800 today. However, curfew in Vikaspuri, Janakpuri, Tilak Nagar, and Uttam Nagar areas will continue. Police have been directed to strictly impose the curfew restrictions and severely deal with those violating it. Army has been asked to stand by to assist the civil authorities in sensitive areas.

As already reported, four persons were injured in an incident in central Delhi last night. One of them later succumbed to his injuries in hospital. With this, the number of persons killed in firing and mob violence since yesterday has gone up to six. It has also been decided that all schools, colleges, and educational institutions will remain closed tomorrow as a precautionary measure in view of the call for Delhi bundh [strike] by the Bharatiya Janata Party.

In Amritsar, the curfew which was clamped yesterday as a precautionary measure has been lifted since 0900 today. According to official reports reaching Chandigarh, the Army will stage flag marches in the sensitive areeas of Amritsar, Gurdaspur, and Ferozepore Districts today to instill a sense of confidence among the people.

Steps Taken for 28 Jul Strike

BK271619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jul 86

[Text] The situation in Delhi is well under control. According to the police, no violent incident has been reported since this morning. Curfew was relaxed for 2 hours from 1600 in Hauz Qazi,

Jama Masjid, Chandni Mahal, Balli Maran, and Farash Khana areas. The curfew relaxation passed off peacefully. Curfew is continuing in areas under the Tilak Nagar police station, but it will be relaxed for 1 hour tomorrow from 0530 for women only.

Elaborate police arrangements have been made to maintain law and order in view of the proposed bundh [strike] in the capital tomorrow. According to a police spokesman, additional paramilitary forces have been made available to assist the Delhi police in the law and order arrangements. Strict instructions have been issued to deal firmly with persons violating prohibitory orders. A large number of bad characters and criminal elements have been rounded up. Senior officers will supervise the law and order arrangements during the bundh. The spokesman said searches are being conducted for wanted persons and illegal arms. Serious action will be taken against rumormongers. Senior police officers today held a number of meetings with members of different communities and were assured of all help. Peace marches were conducted in certain areas. The public has been requested to cooperate with the law and order enforcement agencies to ensure that there is no untoward incident.

The call for the bundh has been given by the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] to protest against the killing of innocent persons near Mukhtsar in Punjab on Friday [25 July]. The bundh call has been supported by the Akali Dal-Longowal and some other political parties and trade and business organizations. At an emergency meeting today, the BJP emphasized that the bundh must be completely peaceful.

A spokesman ofthe Delhi Transport Corporation has said that it will operate normal bus services tomorrow. As already reported, the Delhi administration has announced that schools, colleges, and other educational institutions in Delhi will remain closed tomorrow as a precautionary measure. A press note of the Central Board of Secondary Education says that the all-India and Delhi secondary compartmental examinations scheduled for tomorrow in Delhi have been postponed; however, the remaining examination dates remain unchanged.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, called on the president, Giani Zail Singh, today. He apprised the president of the law and order situation in Punjab, Delhi, and other places. The president was appreciative of the steps taken by the government.

Strike Begins in New Delhi

BK280358 Hong Kong AFP in English 0348 GMT 28 Jul 86

[Text] New Delhi, July 28 (AFP) — A day-long strike began in the Indian capital Monday in protest against Friday's slaying of 14 bus passengers in Punjab by suspected Sikh separatists, witnesses said.

All educational institutions were closed Monday, as the administration threw a massive security net over the capital of six-million people to halt any violence, a city spokesman said. Over 800 people have been taken into custody as a precautionary measure.

The Army was standing by to counter any further Hindu backlash against the killing of the bus passengers in Punjab, where a section of the India's 16 million Sikhs are campaigning for secession. Thirteen of the passengers were Hindus, India's religious majority, but minority in Punjab.

Monday's strike has been called by the right-wing Hindu-dominated Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). "The strike has begun, but there has been no violence. We are keeping a close watch", a police spokeman told *Agence France-Presse*.

Meanwhile, curfew was relaxed for one to two hours Monday in the western and northern districts of the capital where anti-Sikh flareups over the week-end had led to the death of six people, police said.

Reporters saw serpentine queues before milk booths and vegetable shops as the residents got the chance to come out after 44 hours of strict curfew restrictions. Though traders kept their shops closed all over the city, life appeared normal in the posh southern district, where most of the foreigners live, witnesses said. City buses were plying normally in the southern and central districts.

Further on Strike

BK280908 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Jul 86

[Text] Most shops and business establishments in Delhi are closed today in response to the call for bundh [strike] to protest against the killing of bus passengers near Mukhtsar in Punjab on Friday [25 July]. Banks and government offices are, however, open. Buses and auto-rickshaws are plying. The Delhi administration has closed schools and colleges for the day. A few incidents of stoning of buses and deflating of tires have been reported from west Delhi. There was also a case of stonethrowing in central Delhi. One additional deputy commissioner of police and two constables received minor injuries while controlling the crowd.

According to a spokesman of Delhi police, the situation in the capital is under control. Adequate security arrangements have been made in all sensitive areas; intensive patrolling by the police continues.

Over 1,000 persons have been taken into custody since Saturday. The call for the bundh was given by Bharatiya Janata Party and supported by Akali Dal-Longowal and some other political parties. Bundh is also being observed at several places in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu. A partial bundh is being observed in Agra. No untoward incident has been reported so far from anywhere, and the situation is peaceful.

Army Called Out To Curb Gurkhas' 'Violent Protests'

BK271445 Hong Kong AFP in English 1420 GMT 27 Jul 86

[Text] New Delhi, July 27 (AFP) — Troops were sent to the northeastern district of Darjeeling Sunday after police shot dead at least five people during violent protests by Gurkha separatists,

the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported. Twenty police were also reported injured.

Followers of the Gurkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) rampaged through the town of Kalimpong, attacking policemen and paramilitary troops, the agency said. An unspecified number of Gurkhas had assembled in Kalimpong's main square early Sunday to burn copies of an 1950 India-Nepalese agreement in response to a call by the GNLF, PTI said in a report from Calcutta which quoted a police spokesman.

Police first opened fire after tear gas and a baton-charge failed to disperse the Gurkhas, who were violating a ban on gatherings of more than four people, it said. Five Gurkhas were left wounded. The Gurkhas then regrouped and attacked the security forces, who again opened fire, killing the five men on the spot, the news agency said.

8 Killed in Darjeeling District

BK271604 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jul 86

[Text] In West Bengal, eight persons were killed when police resorted to firing at Kalimpong in Darjeeling District today. The director general of state police, Mr R.K. Bhattacharya, told our Calcutta correspondent that a large number of supporters of the Gurkha National Liberation Front [GNLF] assembled in the town violating prohibitory orders. When the police tried to push them back, they started throwing stones, injuring 15 Central Reserve Police Force personnel, one of them seriously. Indefinite curfew has been imposed in Kalimpong from this evening. The Army has been called out in the town to control the situation.

Earlier in the morning also, a large number of GNLF men had gathered in the town. When they refused to disperse despite repeated warnings, the police opened fire, in which five persons were injured. Twenty-seven people were arrested. The district magistrate and senior police officials have rushed to the spot.

Situation Calm; Death Toll 11

BK280418 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Jul 86

[Text] The situation in the curfew bound Kalimpong town of Darjeeling District in West Bengal is reported to be peaceful but tense. The Army is assisting the local authorities in maintaining law and order. As already reported, the Army was called out yesterday following some violent incidents.

Meanwhile, according to the state home secretary, the death toll in the clashes and police firing on violent supporters of the Gurkha National Liberation Front has risen to 11 with 3 persons, including a policeman, succumbing to their injuries.

The acting West Bengal chief minister, Mr Benoy Chowdhury, has appealed to the people of Darjeeling District to maintain peace.

6 Afghans Refugees Die in Landmine Explosion 27 July

BK280310 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Jul 86

[Text] Six Afghan refugees were killed and three injured in an explosion when the pickup truck in which they were traveling crossed a landmine in an Afghan tented village in (Assatheen) near Sadda in Khurram Agency yesterday. Four of them died on the spot and two succumbed to their injuries in Sadda civil hospital.

Afghan Envoy Summoned Over 23, 25 July Shellings

BK271726 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Jul 86

[Text] The Kabul regime's Armed Forces fired 30 rounds of artillery in (Zarkhai) in Bajaur Agency last Wednesday [23 July] as a result of which a Pakistan national was wounded. They again fired 40 rounds of mortar on Friday last, which landed in the area of the Frontier Corps post in Chaman, causing injuries to eight persons of the corps.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this morning and a strong protest was lodged with him over the unprovoked attacks.

Yaqub Khan Departs for 'Indirect Talks' in Geneva

BK280546 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 28 Jul 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left for Geneva today to participate in the new round of UN-sponsored indirect talks on the Afghanistan problem beginning on Wednesday [30 July]. The current round of Geneva talks is extremely important as the fourth instrument of the comprehensive settlement, the time frame for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan, will be discussed.

Pakistan has been making a demand for the withdrawal of foreign forces in months not in years. Pakistan is making full efforts for a just and peaceful political settlement of the Afghanistan problem. This problem was created by the armed intervention of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan.

PPP Leader Returns From Exile; Clash Injures 25

BK260317 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jul 86

[Text] In Pakistan, at least 25 persons, including six policemen, were injured in a clash between supporters of the opposition Pakistan People's Party and the police in Lahore. The clash occurred when thousands of supporters of the party had gathered at Lahore airport yesterday to greet their leader, Sheikh Mohammad Rashid, who was returning from London from exile.

Mr Rashid accused the Pakistan Government of trying to turn a peaceful struggle into a violent one.

Reportage on Visit of Bangladesh President

Arrives; Meets With Junejo

BK261620 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Jul 86

[Excerpts] Formal talks between Bangladesh's President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo were held in Islamabad this evening.

The two leaders exchanged views on regional and bilateral relations, the regional situation, and ways to strengthen the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation [SARC]. President Hussain Mohammad Ershad is the current chairman of SARC.

Our correspondent says that during the official talks, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo warmly welcomed the Bangladeshi president and expressed Pakistan's desire to have detailed exchanges of views between the leaders of the two countries in order to achieve concrete and positive results in further promoting bilateral ties in the economic, trade, technical, and educational fields. The Bangladeshi foreign minister, financial adviser and other officials assisted the Bangladeshi president at the talks. Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo was assisted by his foreign, finance and education ministers.

Earlier, the prime minister called on the Bangladeshi president at the presidency in Islamabad this afternoon. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. The foreign ministers of the two countries were also present on the occasion.

Bangladeshi President Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad was accorded a grand welcome when he arrived in Islamabad on a 3-day state visit to Pakistan this afternoon. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, Mrs Mohammad Ziaul Haq, and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo received the distinguished guest as soon as he alighted from the plane. [passage omitted]

Later, the president was introduced to Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan, National Assembly Speaker Hamid Nasir Chatha, federal ministers, ministers of state, senators, members of the National Assembly, members of local bodies, members of the diplomatic corps, high civil and military officials and others who formed a long line to receive the president. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Views Visits to U.S., FRG, Turkey

BK251654 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said the restoration of democratic process has enhanced Pakistan's prestige and our foreign friends and Pakistanis living abroad have been greatly impressed by the economic development and the promotion of democratic values in the country.

He was addressing a crowded news conference in Rawalpindi this afternoon after his 15-day foreign tour. He said the restoration

of democracy and fundamental rights in Pakistan was welcomed in each of the countries he visited.

During this visit, the prime minister said he endeavored to establish contacts with friendly countries at all levels, understand their viewpoints, present Pakistan's views, and establish an atmosphere of mutual understanding and amity. Pakistan's principled stand on Afghanistan and its efforts for a peaceful settlement of this problem were appreciated at every level. His visit to the United States, the FRG, and Turkey was more successful than he had expected, and Pakistan is now being viewed with greater respect and honor than before, the prime minister observed.

Mohammad Khan Junejo said that during his visit to the United States he informed U.S. leaders of the efficient manner in which the fixed schedule for the lifting of martial law in Pakistan was being implemented and the process for the establishment of democracy was being completed. He also informed them that the Pakistani people have now regained their fundamental rights after 20 years, the Constitution has been fully enforced, supremacy of the judiciary has been established, and there is complete freedom of speech.

President Reagan and other leaders welcomed the restoraion of democracy in Pakistan. President Reagan expressed concern over the threat possed to the security of the region due to the presence of Soviet forces in Afghanistan. He condemned the violation of Pakistani airspace and affirmed that the United States will provide full support and assistance to Pakistan in safeguarding its security and sovereignty. He expressed full support for Pakistan's principled stand on Afghanistan and appreciated the Pakistani people's efforts in caring for the Afghan refugees.

The prime minister said he explained to U.S. leaders that Pakistan's nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes, for agriculture, medical, and energy purposes.

Mohammad Khan Junejo said he apprised President Reagan of the efforts being made to improve relations between India and Pakistan. He welcomed these efforts. The U.S. President also welcomed the agreement reached between the two countries not to attack each other's nuclear installations.

The United States is deeply interested in Pakistan's security and economic development. The prime minister is confident that the U.S. Congress will approve an aid bill worth over $4 billion.

Referring to his meeting with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, the prime minister said he told the UN chief that Pakistan respects the efforts being made by the United Nations for withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

Mohammad Khan Junejo said the FRG leaders and people want to see progress, prosperity, security, and stability in Pakistan. They highly respect the restoration of democracy in Pakistan and fully support Pakistan's stand on Afghanistan. West Germany has agreed to supply current technology and increase investments in Pakistan.

Concerning his visit to France, the prime minister said President Mitterrand and Prime Minister Chirac stated their pleasure with the restoration of democracy in Pakistan and appreciated the assistance given to Afghan refugees. President Mitterrand and Prime Minister Chirac have accepted an invitation to visit Pakistan. Answering a question, the prime minister said the foreign ministers of Pakistan and France will meet soon to discuss the issue of the [nuclear] reprocessing plant.

Concerning his visit to Turkey, the prime minister said the enthusiastic and affectionate welcome accorded to him by President Kenan Evren, Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, other leaders, and the people of Turkey is a living example of our durable friendship and fraternity. He said: We noted complete unanimity of views on bilateral and regional issues, including Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Cyprus.

Answering a question about the timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the prime minister said the withdrawal period should be less than 4 months. The next round of Geneva talks will be crucial in this regard.

Concerning the sudden visit of the Israeli prime minister to Morocco, Mohammad Khan Junejo said we will never welcome such a decision. Answering another question about export of Pakistani cotton textiles to European countries and the United States, the prime minister said the commerce ministers of these countries have assured him they will consider this issue sympathetically.

Addressing a large gathering outside the airport on his return from his foreign tour this morning, the prime minister said the governments of all the countries he visited have welcomed the restoration of democracy and the establishment of a representative government in Pakistan. Concerning his meeting with President Reagan, he said the U.S. President accepted the fact that Pakistan enjoys an extraordinary position in this region. He promised all possible assistance in promoting the democratic process in Pakistan. [passage omitted]

NEPAL

Soviet Vice Minister Calls on Prime Minister

BK201449 Katmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 20 Jul 86

[Text] First Vice Minister for Justice of the USSR, Dr Yuriy D. Severin, called on Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha at his office today. Present on the occasion was Soviet Ambassador to Nepal Konstantinovich Shcheglov.

SRI LANKA

Further Reportage on Visit of Bangladesh President

Feted at Banquet 24 July

BK251354 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] The visiting Bangladesh president who delivered a speech at the banquet held by President Jayewardene in Colombo last night said that Sri Lanka had all along been playing a pioneering role in promoting regional cooperation in South Asia which found its culmination in the establishment of SARC [South Asian Association for Reginal Cooperation]. At recent times, this has been a most significant development and a matter of immense satisfaction to all in the region.

The Bangladesh leader said that poverty and underdevelopment were the critical problems facing us and only by working in close contact that we can effectively tackle these. SARC, he said, is a manifestation of their collective commitment to help (?each other). He said that SARC should also provide a most usefu and convenient framework to bring about an improvement in the political climate of the region. The Bangladesh president also reiterated his support for holding the proposed international conference on Indian Ocean in Colombo. He invited President Jayewardene and Mrs Jayewardene to pay a state visit to Bangladesh.

President Jayewardene said in his speech that there is a hope of return of peace and harmony [words indistinct] through the length and breadth of our country today. He said that the menace of terrorism is (?threatening) all democratic and civilized norms of life. This tragedy and trauma which Sri Lanka has gone through as a result of terrorism is well-known. In pursuance of the decision taken in Dhaka during the [SARC] summit to assist one another in combating this menace, the (?foreign) ministers of the countries will meet in Bangladesh capital next week to consider the recommendations which were made by the group of experts.

Departs 26 July

BK261119 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Jul 86

[Text] The president of Bangladesh, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, concluded his 3-day state visit to Sri Lanka this morning. A special departure ceremony was held this morning opposite to President's House in Colombo.

General Ershad during his stay here held official talks with President J.R. Jayewardene on bilateral cooperation in the matters pertaining to SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]. General Ershad is the current chairman of the organization.

Death Toll in Vavuniya Bus Bombing Reaches 12

BK251120 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] Latest report said that the death toll in Vavuniya's bomb explosion yesterday was 12. Twenty-eight persons were also injured when terrorists exploded the bomb (?on a) crowded bus traveling from Vavuniya to Anuradhapura.

The Joint Operations Command said that the bodies have been badly mutiliated, making identification and counting difficult. The explosion occured shortly before noon yesterday.

Suspect Captured in Ambush

BK261357 Hong Kong AFP in English 1339 GMT 26 Jul 86

[Text] Colombo, July 26 (AFP) — Sri Lankan troops have detained a man suspected of planting a bomb aboard a bus last Thursday that killed 12 and injured 28, authoritative sources said Saturday.

The suspect was arrested in an ambush Friday near the central-northern city of Vavuniya, the sources said.

Although his identity is being kept secret, the sources said he was thought to be a local leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the main guerrilla group fighting for an independent Tamil state.

He was brought to Colombo under tight security for further interrogation, the sources said.

Government troops laid the ambush after receiving information from the public that the man who put the parcel bomb on the government-owned bus — which was travelling south to Anuradhapura from Vavuniya — would be in the Vavuniya area, the sources said. "Public cooperation helped the security forces round up the man," the source said.

Thursday's blast came two days after the LTTE allegedly hit another bus in the northeast with a landmine. Thirty-one were killed and nearly 25 injured in that incident.

A section of Sri Lanka's 2.5-million Tamil minority has been waging a violent campaign for independence in the north and east of Sri Lanka, accusing the Sinhalese majority of unfair discrimination. Talks between President Junius Jayewardene's government and the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front on a compromise proposal to create elected provincial councils are currently in recess.

Majlis Speaker Warns Gulf States on Backing Iraq

LD271141 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jul 86

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani warned the reactionary countries that support Saddam that if they continue their backing, Iran will consider them responsible for Iraq's acts of wickedness. The imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council, in an elaborate analysis of the imposed war published in the publication *Pasdar-e Eslam*, mentioned that the countries situated along the southern coasts of the Persian Gulf which support Iraq and allow Iraq to feed off their oil resources, should realize that if Iraq buys weapons using Saudi Arabia's, Kuwait's, or another country's oil money in order to attack our oil installations, they would have to pay for such aggressions.

The speaker of the Majlis, referring to Iraq's wickedness in inflicting damage on economic centers and pointing to Iran's tit for tat policy said: We now have fully identified and located Iraq's sensitive points and know precisely where power-producing turbines, refineries, oil processing plants, and other sensitive centers are. We can aim our missiles at any point we wish with precision and destroy it. Iraq has experienced the accuracy of our missiles in Kirkuk. They know that if there is to be a race in hitting industrial points, it would suffer far more damage than we would.

Hasheni-Rafsanjani stressed that the conspiracies of Iran's enemies to reduce oil prices has brought about quite the opposite results. He said: Now it is not necessary to sell more oil no matter how far oil prices rise because, relying on our own expertise, we can produce oil products domestically and manufacture the necessary goods in our petrochemical plants. [sentence as heard]

The speaker of the Majlis, emphasized the fact that the drop in oil prices is not back-breaking for Iran; rather, it has had constructive effects, whereas Iraq will certainly break under the pressure. He pointed to the new economic circumstances in the country and said: With proper planning, the government will maintain a high level of reserves of essential goods. We will never experience shortages of bread, rice, meat, fuel, or other essential goods.

In another part of his analysis, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: Presently, the situation at the fronts is such that either Iraq should surrender and accept defeat or embark on other attacks, which would be very expensive. Comparing the conditions of the two armies of Iran and Iraq, the imam's representative added: Today our tanks are more active than before. In addition, we have captured about 700 tanks, most of which are new. Our artillery is stronger than it was at the beginning of the war. We have the second or third biggest helicopter fleet in the world. Our manpower resources are so strong that our military centers have (?not been able to absorb all those who had not previously been called up). We also have decided to form 1000 battlaions of new forces in order to finish the war.

In conclusion, Hashemi-Rafsanjani asked people to show patience and not to be put off by some shortages. He asked people to cooperate with officials in order to stop the spread of ill-intentioned activities which aim to create shortages.

Spokesman Condemns Accusation Against UN Envoy

LD271738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jul 86

[Text] Commenting on accusations levelled recently against a member of Islamic Republic's delegation at the United Nations by the United States to the effect that he had been engaged in activities against U.S. security, a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry said: This baseless accusation, which follows imaginary accusations and a propaganda clamor perpetrated by the United States against the Islamic Republic's ambassador to the United Nations, is indicative of the United States' conspiratorial tendency as well as its uproar against Iranian diplomats at the United Nations. They are aimed at bringing political pressure to bear on the diplomats.

Referring to U.S. plots against progressive and revolutionary countries which are not prepared to accept its hegemonic policies, as well as Reagan's terrorism against these countries including the mining of Nicaraguan waters and the night raids on Libyan civilian areas, the spokesman said: There are times when the United States, making use of advanced weaponry, resorts to terrorism. Then there are times when, making use of propaganda and the media, it resorts to terrorism against the integrity of individuals, as well as that of revolutionary systems. Both methods, however, are indicative of the arrogant nature and the misleading role of the U.S. ruling circles.

Concluding his remarks and condemning these ploys, the spokesman called on other independent countries and UN officials not to allow the United States to harass other countries' delegates at the United Nations, which is contrary to international law on diplomatic immunity and the United Nations's independent status.

Oil Minister Holds News Conference on OPEC Meeting

LD281039 Tehran IRNA in English 1004 GMT 28 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA — Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said here Monday that quotas set by the 1983 London conference should become a base in determining production quotas of OPEC members. In doing so, he added, factors such as population, gross national product, depletion of oil resources, and average oil production of the members in the past, should be taken into account.

Speaking at a press conference here Monday morning, Aqazadeh said that only Saudi Arabia should clarify its stance by either accepting the fixed or fluctuating quota.

According to the London conference, production quotas of each member -- with the exception of Saudi Arabia -- was set on the basis of production ceiling of 17.5 million barrels per day. This does not differ much from the 17.6 million barrels per day agreed upon by 10 OPEC members in the recent meeting in Brioni, Yugoslavia, he added.

Aqazadeh stressed that a group led by Saudi Arabia is responsible for the present situation in the oil market caused by 4 million barrels per day excess production. Saudi Arabia floods the

market by over-producing 2 million barrels, Kuwait one million barrels and Iraq and the United Arab Emirates a total of one million barrels per day, the Iranian oil minister said.

When asked whether he was optimistic that the Geneva conference will lead to an agreement, Aqazadeh said almost all OPEC members are aware that their failure to reach an agreement will make the situation worse. However, he added, since a number of other member states have joined progressive group in OPEC, a more optimistic result is possible.

Aqazadeh stressed that the objective of the plotters to reduce oil prices is to exert pressure on Iran. He said that Iran would agree to any rational decision based on economic reasoning but would not yield to political pressure.

Rejecting irrational policies of Saudi Arabia in oil market, he said that countries such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait should be held responsible for economic crisis in Egypt, Venezuela, Indonesia, Oman, and Mexico. He said that at present OPEC is in its worst condition over the past quarter of century, adding that coming out with a unified decision in the Geneva conference is an urgent task. He reiterated that if OPEC agreed to any rise in Iraq's quots, Iran would match the increase by raising its production twofold.

IRGC Head Proposes Creation of 'War Councils'

LD270648 Tehran IRNA in English 0640 GMT 27 Jul 86

[Text] Khorramabad, Lorestan Prov., July 27, IRNA — Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Reza'i said here Saturday that in order to end the Iraqi-imposed war special war councils will be formed in villages throughout the country.

Speaking to a large gathering of people, he said that the IRGC will run the councils under the supervision of the headquarters to support war efforts. The councils, he added, will coordinate war efforts and dispatch forces to the war fronts.

On recent victories of the Muslim forces of Iran, the IRGC commander said that following the liberation of the Iraqi port city of Al-Faw, Iraqi forces kept Iranian positions under attacks for 70 days. However, all the enemy's efforts were in vain and the Iraqi army suffered heavy losses in Al-Faw, he stressed.

Referring to Imam Khomeyni's recent statements, Reza'i said "we are only few steps away from victory and must continue the war vigorously."

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Residential Bombings Denied

LD260544 Tehran IRNA in English 0538 GMT 26 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA — Iran Saturday categorically denied claims of the Iraqi regime alleging Iran of having bombed residential quarters in Al-Sulaymaniyah and Qal'at Salih, Friday.

A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH), said that Iraqi fabrications were aimed at covering up its crimes in attacking residential areas in Iran during the past few days. He stressed that the Iranian pilots Friday zeroed in on economic centers of the Baghdad regime and even stated the coordinates for the bombed points.

Communique No 2,543

LD251732 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 25 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA — Two main Iraqi economic centers were heavily bombed by Iranian jet fighters at 35:35 north and 45:23 east coordinates in western Al-Sulaymaniyah and at 31:37 north and 47:11 east coordinates in southern Al-'Amarah at 10:05 and 10:20 hours GMT Friday, said a military communique here.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2543 said that the Iranian fighters after inflicting substantial losses on the Iraqi economic centers returned safely to bases. Iraqi troops sustained heavy casualties and losses in Hajj 'Umran, Sardasht and Marivan, northwestern fronts, Thursday as their positions were reconnoitered and shelled by Iranian forces, the communique said.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one munitions dump and six bunkers and observation posts of theirs destroyed in artillery duels with Iranian forces in Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts Thursday. The artillery duels in these fronts raged more heavily in Maymak and Qasr-e Shirin. Two convoys of Iraqi patrols attempting in infiltrate Iranian positions in Kharratha operational theater sustained casualties and were forced to flee under Iranian artillery fire, said the communique.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, Iraqi troops incurred casualties and losses Thursday when their positions and supply routes were hit by Iranian artillery fire. According to the communique Iranian Gendarmerie forces responded to Iraqi artillery fire in parts of the southern fronts Thursday inflicting casualties and losses on enemy forces and restricting their engineering operations. Meanwhile, the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province was target of sporadic long-range artillery fire of Iraqi forces over the past week as a result of which some damage was inflicted on houses and shops.

Communique No 2,544

LD261628 Tehran IRNA in English 1558 GMT 26 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA — An Iraqi naval target in Khawr 'Abdallah waterway sustained heavy damage and probably sank when it was hit by artillery fire of Iranian naval forces early Friday, said a military communique here Saturday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2544 said that Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected a cargo ship sailing under a foreign flag west of Iranian port of Jask in Oman Sea Saturday but allowed the ship to continue voyage after being satisfied that it was not carrying any war-related goods for Iraq.

At least 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and three vehicles and several gun emplacements of theirs destroyed in the southern fronts Saturday as they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces. An Iraqi command jeep was also destroyed and its passengers killed in these fronts over the same period, said the communique. The communique said that Iraqi warplanes attempting to violate the airspace of Iranian border areas Saturday were repelled by Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique said, two Iraqi munitions dumps were set ablaze and parts of enemy positions destroyed when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire Saturday. Enemy fire was also silenced.

Some Iraqi motorized columns carrying ammunition and personnel in Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts were hit by Iranian artillery fire Saturday as a result of which one enemy truck was destroyed, according to the communique.

Elsewhere, the communique said that an Iraqi armoured unit in Chazzabeh incurred heavy damage when it was shelled by Iranian forces on Saturday.

Iraqi Planes Raid Arak Area

LD271011 Tehran IRNA in English 1007 GMT 27 Jul 86

[Text] Arak, Central Prov., July 27, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes hit working class neighbourhood and industrial places in outskirts of Arak Sunday morning, martyring a number of civilians. Following the air raid, people of the city rushed to help the victims of the latest Iraqi attack on civilian areas and transfered the injured to hospitals.

The War Information Headquarters spokesman (WIH) commenting on the incident told IRNA that continued Iraqi attacks on non-military areas proved inability of the international organisations in halting Iraqi crimes. The Islamic Republic of Iran, he added, as it has informed the U.N. secretary-general, has the right to retaliate. "The Sunday Iraqi crime will be answered with twice as stronger so that the Iraqi regime will regret such desparate moves." [as received]

Communique No 2,545

LD271619 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 27 Jul 86

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA — Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected two cargo ships sailing under foreign flags near the Hormuz Strait Saturday but allowed the ships to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying any war-related goods for Iraq, said a military communique here Sunday.

The Joint Staff communique number 2545 said that many Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several gun emplacements, three vehicles, one munitions dump, one truck and some observation posts of theirs were destroyed in fighting with Iranian forces Saturday.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique said, some Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one munitions dump together with parts of enemy positions set ablaze when Iranian forces pounded Iraqi positions and patrol units.

Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts on Saturday destroyed several gun emplacements and observation posts and one truck of Iraqi forces. Several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and movement of enemy armoured and motorized units in Mehran, Maymak and Halaleh checked.

The communique furthermore said that exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern fronts Saturday raging somewhat more heavily in Faqqeh, Sharhani and Majnun Islands.

Elsewhere in Kushk and Talaiyeh operational theaters Iraqi troops sustained casualties and losses as their infantry and engineering units were hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces pounded Iraqi positions in parts of the southern fronts Saturday destroying five Iraqi gun emplacements with their crew and three enemy light as well as heavy vehicles, according to the communique.

Abadan, Khorramshahr Shelled

LD271722 Tehran IRNA in English 1718 GMT 27 Jul 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., July 27, IRNA — The city of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, was hit by Iraqi long-range artillery fire over Saturday and Sunday. As a result of which some residential and trade units were damaged.

Also fire erupted in some parts of the city and its suburbs as a result of the shelling. Also Khorramshahr, Khuzestan Province, was hit by the Iraqi artillery fire over the same period causing damage in parts of the city.